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THE TIMES

HEALTH
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No 64,224

THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1992

40p

Health fears resurface as president is taken ill at state banquet



Centre of attention: all the president's men rush to aid Mr Bush after he collapsed at the state banquet in Tokyo. After some minutes he struggled up insisting he felt good

Bush fights on after Tokyo collapse

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO AND PETER STOTTIARD IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush plans to carry on with his trade talks with Japanese leaders today, within hours of collapsing from gastric flu at a state banquet last night.

Security guards and doctors rushed to the president's side last night after he vomited and slumped from his chair during a dinner hosted by Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister. Mr Bush lay on the floor for some minutes, his head cradled in Mr Miyazawa's lap, before struggling to his feet and insisting that he felt good.

"I just wanted to get a little attention," he told fellow guests as

he emerged, ashen-faced with mouth agape, from behind the pink tablecloth. A guard patted Mr Bush's dishevelled hair into place and the national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, wrapped him in a coat before helping him to a limousine to take him off to bed.

Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said later that the 67-year-old president had been given Tigan, a drug to combat nausea, and was feeling fine. He would not attend a breakfast meeting with Japanese businessmen planned for today, but would continue with the rest of his schedule, including a full round of meetings,

a final summit with Mr Miyazawa, and a press conference. Mr Bush is due to fly home to Washington tomorrow after a 12-day, 26,000-mile trade mission that has taken him to Australia, Singapore and South Korea as well as Japan.

The president's collapse was the second scare about his health in seven months and came on the day he reiterated that only health problems would prevent him seeking a second term of office in November's election. Last May, he spent two days in hospital after suffering palpitations. The problem was later diagnosed as a thyroid condition known as Graves' Disease. Last

night, Mr Fitzwater insisted that the president's illness was not linked to that condition. He was suffering from a simple case of gastro-enteritis or intestinal flu and that there was no need for any special alarm. Mr Bush, who had played tennis earlier in the day, had complained of symptoms before the dinner, but decided to go anyway. Members of his staff and of the press corps had also reported similar symptoms.

In Washington, officials worked hard to give the impression of "business as usual" at the White House. Vice President Dan Quayle worked quietly in his office and

later set off for a pre-arranged campaigning trip to New Hampshire, where the first presidential primary is to be held on February 18. Mr Bush plans to visit the state next week.

Officials maintained that no special consideration had been given to the position of the vice-president, but the news from Tokyo again highlighted the significance of Mr Quayle to Mr Bush's chances of reelection. Although the vice-president's reputation has improved in recent months, opinion polls still show that he is a drag on the Republican ticket.

Mr Bush maintains a rigorous fitness routine with the blessing of his doctors and has kept it up even during this punishing tour. Since leaving Washington on December 30, he has travelled 19,000 miles from an American winter, through an Australian summer, the sweltering equatorial humidity of Singapore, the frigid temperatures in Seoul and back to the cold of Japan. He has worked 16-hour days and attended official dinners every night, often eating exotic

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Fit to be sick? page 9
Lame duck Bush? page 12

Barcelona attracts a record entry

TODAY IN THE TIMES

FINE TUNING



Sally Ockwell became Young Woman Engineer of the Year yesterday, only to be told by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, that he wished there were no such award. **Page 5**

FINE MESS



Mr Laurel? Meet Mr Hardy. David Robinson salutes the work of the veteran film director Hal Roach — 100 next week — who brought the famous pair together. **Page 11**

FINE ART



"Lady Helen Windsor has done for the profession of art dealer what Princess Margaret did for photography," says Philip Howard. **Page 12**

Major gives job pledge to soften Ravenscraig blow

BY KERRY GILL

URGENT measures to cushion central Scotland's economy were announced by John Major last night in an attempt to limit the political damage from British Steel's decision to close the Ravenscraig steel complex near Glasgow. More than 1,200 jobs will be lost and steel production north of the border will be ended by the closure.

As a political storm erupted in Scotland, with grave implications for the Conservatives, the prime minister announced that the government would seek approval from the European Commission to create an enterprise zone in Lanarkshire, where it is estimated that 15,500 jobs could be lost in local steel support industries. Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said that an additional £50 million would be injected into the area over ten years creating an extra 7,500 jobs.

With the Tories holding

only nine of Scotland's 72 parliamentary seats, Westminster sources disclosed that ministers were furious at British Steel's decision to bring forward the closure date and "desperately worried" at the political fall-out from the loss of jobs within months of the next general election.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said the government could not wash its hands of responsibility for the closure. "The government cannot simply walk away from the steel company's decision, with all its very grave implications for Lanarkshire and for Scotland. They have responsibility for the recession and have done nothing to see that British Steel honours its undertakings about Ravenscraig," he said. Mr Kinnock

added: "They must be prepared to deal with the consequences. Lanarkshire faces their belated support for enterprise zone status is not enough in itself. Lanarkshire deserves better, and the incoming Labour government will ensure that the area gets the backing needed to build for a secure future."

Mr Major said the announcement had "removed the uncertainty" hanging over the area, where the workforce had lived with worry for a long time. The closure was a "matter of very great regret" and he had hoped

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Sterling hits low

With the currency markets thrown into temporary confusion by President Bush's collapse, pressure on sterling continued yesterday. The currency closed down almost a penny at DM2.8395, its lowest close since June 1990. Stock markets in London and New York rallied as fears about President Bush's health receded. **Page 19**
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Georgia sabotage

The new government in Georgia faced sabotage by electricity workers and a rebellion by a provincial town yesterday. Police were said to have stopped Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the deposed president, from leaving his sanctuary in Armenia. **Page 7**

Yugoslav defence minister resigns

FROM ANNE MCILROY IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YUGOSLAVIA's federal defence minister, General Veljko Kadijevic, resigned yesterday, 24 hours after the military acknowledged shooting down a European Community helicopter, killing five peace monitors.

Until a new minister is appointed, the post will be filled by the army chief of staff, General Blagoje Adzic, a hardliner who is thought to be responsible for masterminding the army's main attacks on the breakaway republic of Croatia.

The resignation came as the Community announced that it was suspending temporarily the operations of its monitors in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia after Tuesday's attack by federal air force planes. João Salgueiro,

head of the EC mission in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, said yesterday that the 170-strong team would seek guarantees of safety from the federal and Croatian sides that its members were not in danger before returning to work in the crisis areas.

The Italian defence minister, Virginio Rognoni, condemned the helicopter incident, in which four Italian servicemen died, as shameful and said that all the signs pointed to a deliberate attempt to wreck the Community's efforts to end the fighting.

In New York, the UN Security Council was due last night to approve a resolution

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Moscow deal clears way for British beef

By MICHAEL HORNSBY IN LONDON AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BRITISH and Russian veterinary officials, meeting in Moscow, have resolved the dispute holding up the delivery of almost 2,000 tonnes of British beef, the agriculture ministry said last night.

The agreement appeared to have come only just in time to prevent further attempts by ravenous Russian soldiers to hijack for their own consumption the small amount so far let in. The beef is part of a £140 million package of European Community food aid.

Last Saturday Russian veterinary officials refused to accept a plane load of 118 tonnes when it arrived in Moscow because there was no documentary proof that the meat had come from farms that had been free of "mad cow disease", bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), for five years. Most of the beef was subsequently moved to cold

storage in Murmansk in the Arctic circle, and is awaiting processing, but armed police had to be brought in when soldiers unloading the beef started stealing it when they realised it was not destined for them.

The government's chief veterinary officer, Keith Meldrum, accompanied by European Commission officials, flew to Moscow on Monday to persuade his Russian counterparts that their fears about the safety of British beef were groundless. That mission now appears to have been accomplished.

In a brief statement, the ministry said Mr Meldrum and the Russian deputy chief veterinary officer "have resolved the outstanding technical difficulties regarding the import into Russia of humanitarian beef from the United Kingdom under the European Community food aid programme. Shipments will be subject to detailed documentation covering production of the meat".

Earlier Yegor Gaidar, a Russian deputy prime minister, had expressed optimism about the prospect for agreement and announced that a group of Russian veterinary officials would set off for Britain today to inspect conditions under which British beef is slaughtered and processed.

The Russians appear to have agreed to drop their demand for proof that the meat has come from BSE-free herds after being told of the measures taken in abattoirs in Britain to ensure that carcasses are stripped of all organs that might harbour the disease.

The Overseas Development Administration said last night: "There is still a bit of documentation to be sorted out, but that should not take more than a day or two. When that has been done the aid shipments can resume." Further beef will now be shipped from Hull.

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سکتا میں لکھو

British Steel's decision to close giant works revives cynicism north of the border

Ravenscraig dents election hopes for Scots Tories

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Steel's decision to close the giant Ravenscraig steelworks near Motherwell this autumn, with the loss of 1,200 jobs, has revived cynicism among Scots that the governing party "does not care about us".

"We are not going to gain any seats in Lanarkshire anyway," Arthur Bell, chairman of the Scottish Tory reform group, said yesterday on hearing of the decision. That was hardly consolation for the nine Tory MPs north of the border, who must fight an election within six months.

It was hardly surprising to hear John Major leading ministers in expressing sorrow within minutes of the announcement. Since the loss of Kincardine and Deeside demoted the Tories to third place in Scotland, party strategists have had to face up to the scenario that sees them returned to power at the election but losing control of virtually all 72 Scottish seats.

Two cabinet ministers, Malcolm Rifkind and Ian Lang, will be defending majorities of under 4,000. On the positive side are slight indications of a drift back to the Tories following the departure of Mrs Thatcher. Most of the Scottish Tory constituencies are far removed from smoky industrial belt of Lanarkshire. The nearest is Allan Stewart at Eastwood, one of the safest seats with a 6,014 majority.

Like George Younger and Mr Rifkind, Mr Lang as Scottish secretary has had to grapple with the consequences of the decision in 1988 to privatise British Steel as one unit. That made the future of the Scottish steel industry vulnerable.

The plant is a legacy of Harold Macmillan's regional policy 30 years ago to sustain employment in Scotland and Wales. Ironically, Mr Lang comes from a Clydeside family that made its money out of steel before turning to ships and then to marine insurance. The Scottish secretary worked in insurance for 17 years and was a member of Lloyd's before wrestling Gallo-way from the Scottish Na-

tionalists in 1979. The SNP needs a swing of 4.5 per cent to regain the seat.

Although his early reputation was as a dry "Thatcherite", Mr Lang has shown himself in the past year to be enough of a pragmatist to adopt the tone of the new administration and not to wash his hands of the industry's decision. In common with his predecessor, he has also found Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, hard to handle. Sir Robert made clear to the Commons trade and industry committee for five years that he had wanted to close Ravenscraig and had not visited the site since 1985. Nor was he keen for anyone else to take over the plant.

When Kenneth Clarke, as industry minister, addressed the Commons in December 1987 he effectively sealed the fate of Ravenscraig. He talked of the need for Ravenscraig's mills until 1994 at least, but always hedged that commitment by inserting the words "subject to market conditions". Many a Scottish Tory must be wishing Sir Robert had a little more care for the Scottish scenario to have delayed his decision for another seven months.

British Steel said yesterday that current and forecast poor conditions for the national and international steel market meant there was no future for Ravenscraig beyond September (Philip Basset writes). At a meeting on Monday between Sir Robert and Mr Lang, the company gave the government details of the findings of a lengthy review of British Steel's capacity for strip steel, which indicated clearly that Ravenscraig's role had to be ended.

British Steel, widely regarded as Europe's financially strongest steel producer, saw its profitability slashed last year from £307 million to £19 million and analysts forecast that the company is likely to make a loss over the year of as much as £100 million.

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Blak future: John McMaster, a Ravenscraig crane operator, one of 1,220 who will lose their jobs, finishing his shift yesterday

Steel plant's closure puts 15,000 support jobs at risk

CLOUDS of driving sleet all but obliterated the huge cooling towers of Ravenscraig as dawn broke over the steel works yesterday, an appropriate vision for the 1,220 employees who arrived to be told that the complex would be shut by early autumn.

After 30 years in which generations of families in Lanarkshire have depended on the once vast plant for their livelihood, the remaining employees tried to come to terms with the task of finding new jobs, joining the dole queue or moving away to find work. It is estimated that the knock-on effect of the closure will see up to 15,000 people made redundant, as so many businesses have depended on the plant's presence for contract work.

Mark Kane, aged 21, works for his father in a plant hire firm that relies heavily on Ravenscraig. "Everyone is absolutely shattered," he said. "But I suppose we were expecting it. This will absolutely devastate the area. This was our main customer and, once this shuts, it will affect everyone."

Ravenscraig staff seem resigned to their fate, but the rest of Lanarkshire dreads the future, Kerry Gill reports

Anne Delaney, who tends a school crossing and chats to many of the workers, said: "They are shattered and are in a state of shock today. I don't know what will happen to the area now. They might as well shut down the whole of Lanarkshire after this."

Few of the Ravenscraig workers felt much surprise, having lived and worked for years under the threat of closure. One said that the atmosphere in the plant over past months had been awful.

George Quinn, a union convenor, said: "The whole world knew what was going to happen before the work force. That is an appalling situation, but everyone had become conditioned that this was going to come about. We will continue to operate the plant to the best of our ability until it shuts, because that is

what we are paid to do." Willie Weir, a fitter, said: "I'm extremely disappointed for the whole area, and for Scotland, that a big works like this should close down when it has been so successful." Hugh McDonald, a contract worker, said: "We just feel terrible. This plant is finished and Scotland is finished."

One man who has the burden of finding new employment is Ian Livingstone, chairman of Lanarkshire Development Agency. "This is the worst start to 1992 I can imagine," he said after hearing the news. "I am bitterly dismayed that British Steel has reneged on its commitment that Ravenscraig would remain open until 1994. The people of Lanarkshire are entitled to feel resentment and anger at this betrayal."

Bill Miller, Strathclyde region's economic and industrial development chairman, said that prospects for the area were disastrous and the £50 million earmarked for regeneration would be nowhere near enough.

Consett offers a message of hope

THE despair and hopelessness that overtook the workers at Ravenscraig and their families yesterday have been experienced before in the Co Durham town of Consett.

Twelve years ago the huge steel works that dominated both the landscape and the economy of Consett closed with the loss of 4,700 direct jobs and many others in dependent companies. When someone at the works scrawled the message: "Will the last one to leave please turn out the lights" the comment was seen as much as a prediction on the future of the town as on the works.

Consett became a byword for despair, with instant prophecies of its imminent demise as a community. The forecasts, however, proved to be wrong and had made no allowance for the resilience and skills of its people.

Since the steel works' closure the town has become a laboratory for regeneration projects which attracted £80 million of public sector funds and £50 million of private investment. The aim was to replace the jobs lost by at-

Peter Davenport tells how another former steel town bounced back to defy the prophets of doom

tracting a broad range of new industries. A task force of local authorities, British steel industry and central government developed a broad-based economy. In ten years 5,000 jobs were created and more than 100 new businesses established. Unemployment, which peaked at 29 per cent, was cut to 10 per cent by September 1990, though it has crept back up to 14 per cent.

The steel works has been turned into a 700-acre green field site for leisure, housing and industry. John Pearson, industrial officer with Derwentdale council, said: "Consett's experience was a message of hope for the people of Ravenscraig. It is within the power of Ravenscraig to ensure that any prophecies of doom are not fulfilled," he said.

Brothers promise European a free run

The new proprietors of *The European*, the Barclay brothers, have promised that they will not interfere with the editorial independence of the ambitious weekly newspaper launched 18 months ago by the late Robert Maxwell (Melinda Winstock writes).

Charles Garside, the editor, said that the twins, David and Frederick Barclay, had assured him that they would adopt a "hands-off" stance towards its political direction. The newspaper would "be a middle-European line" despite the Barclays' allegiance to the Conservative party.

Describing the difference between Mr Maxwell and the new owners as "chalk and cheese", Mr Garside said that the title's content would not change dramatically. The Barclay brothers believed in "allowing the editorial staff to get on with it".

Mr Garside denied that the Barclays' 17 per cent stake in the umbrella company of Sir Tim Bell, Margaret Thatcher's favourite public relations man, represented any conflict of interest. The brothers, whose interests include shipping and hotels, are friends of Sir Tim, whose Lowe Bell Communications represents several Eastern European nations where *The European* is sold. "We may employ Lowe Bell too," Mr Garside said.

The European has not decided how many of the 145 employees made redundant last month by administrators of Robert Maxwell's private companies will be re-hired. It is operating on a staff of 60 paid by Mr Garside's own company. It is hoped that the paper will be highly profitable within three years.

10.7% legal aid fee rise urged

The Law Society has told the Lord Chancellor that the large numbers of solicitors withdrawing from legal aid work was putting the scheme into a "spiral of decline" which must be urgently checked with a rise in legal aid pay rates.

In a clear hint that it would take Lord Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to court over the rates, the society said that unless he increased fee levels by at least 10.7 per cent in April, he could be in breach of his statutory duty to provide enough solicitors to do legal aid work.

Doors open to foreign artists

Foreign artists are to be invited to exhibit in the Royal Academy's summer exhibition, the showcase for British contemporary art, on the same basis as full Royal Academicians, Sir Roger de Grey, president of the academy, announced yesterday.

The move is part of Sir Roger's policy to change the shape of the summer exhibition. He wants to make it more accessible to the non-expert, but also more of a draw for international dealers who could discover new artists through it.

RAF Gulf death 'misadventure'

A verdict of misadventure was returned yesterday at the inquest on Flight Lieutenant Keith Collier of Hellesdon, Norfolk, who died instantly when his Jaguar aircraft crashed after hitting an 80ft ridge in the Saudi Arabian desert on November 13, 1990.

The accident happened during a low-level training sortie by six aircraft in tactical formation. The Swindon inquest was told that the pilot could not have seen the white ridge in the featureless terrain until two seconds before impact.

Hospital return for Lineker son

Footballer Gary Lineker's three-month-old son George, who has leukaemia, is to return to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, on Friday for further courses of chemotherapy. Doctors treating the baby allowed Mr Lineker and his wife Michelle to take their son from the hospital on New Year's day for a week with the family at their home in St John's Wood, northwest London.

CORRECTION

Jonathan Barrett, a pilot and aviation lawyer with Clyde and Co, has asked us to make clear that he is not the Jonathan Barrett, also a pilot, referred to in our report (January 1), of Moroccan court proceedings concerning low flying over King Hassan's palace.

Further tales of the jury

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

WHITEHALL office workers were "press-ganged" into jury service for the second day in succession at a London crown court yesterday because summoned jurors failed to turn up.

A fresh batch of six jurors was required by Judge Edmonson who again used the rare provision of "praying a tales" under the Juries Act 1974, which empowers court officials to go out into the street (or into offices near by) and accost people to make up the jury panel.

The rare procedure of "praying" or granting a tales is not thought to have been used for 30 years. However, an acute shortage of jurors is afflicting some London courts in the wake of the Christmas break. The Lord Chancellor's department said that the problems were likely to continue for the rest of the week.

Yesterday officials recruited at the first office they came to in Tottenham Street, Westminster. On Tuesday the order was carried out at trade and industry department offices in Victoria Street.

Tales is the Latin plural for tails, meaning such (or the like) persons from those standing about. Its usage is now restricted to summoning of jurors. A so-called talesman is a member of the tales impanelled to complete a jury.

Information technologists join ranks of City guilds

BY ROBIN YOUNG

INFORMATION technologists yesterday took their place in line after the Mercers, Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Goldsmiths, Haberdashers and other craft mysteries which constitute the worshipful livery companies of the City of London.

As luck would have it the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, whose court held its first meeting as a livery company at Guildhall yesterday, ranks number 100, a happy chance for those accustomed to think in binary computer language, which recognises only 0s and 1s.

The livery which the information technologists have been granted is replete with symbolism. They will wear robes of green (for the globe) and gold (for conductivity) on ceremonial occasions.

Their arms, designed to embody the spirit of the company, have Mercury, god of communications, and Pegasus, who gave his name to the first computer, as supporters. The armorial bearings also feature keys (of knowledge) and stars (to represent satellites).

It has taken seven years for the information technologists to achieve livery status, but that is speedy by city standards, which demand a minimum of 100 freemen, £100,000 in the charitable funds, and a track record of charitable and educational good works before they extend such recognition.

It could be said that the information technologists had friends in the right places. One of their co-founders is Bernard Harty, chamberlain of the City of London, and a founder-freeman is the Lord Mayor, Sir Brian Jenkins.

Mr Harty, already a Tallow Chandler by invitation, is head of the city corporation's information technol-



Michael Morrison, beadle of the Mercers

ogy strategy and application team, and Sir Brian, senior partner in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, already a chartered accountant and a merchant taylor, is an acknowledged expert in computer auditing.

Sir Brian said yesterday: "The fact that information technologists, who are so vital to the modern city, should form a livery company demonstrates how up to date and relevant city traditions still are to leading edge professions."

The information technologists have already mustered 316 freemen, Lord Weinstock, the chairman of GEC among them. Each has paid a joining "fine" of £250 into the company's

charitable trust and stumps up another £80 a year "quarterage" towards running expenses.

The livery companies are descended from craft guilds and trade associations which regulated medieval trade. The most ancient are the Weavers, founded as a guild in 1184, and the first in precedence the wealthy Mercers, to which Dick Whittington belonged. The Mercers have been giving the information technologists help and guidance.

Astonishingly, perhaps, there is no City livery company for bankers, but the next in line after the information technologists are likely to be Water Conservators and Firefighters.

Ministers end civil service deal

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday ended a 66-year-old arbitration agreement with Britain's 553,863 civil servants on the eve of talks designed to introduce performance-related pay throughout the civil service.

The Treasury also bypassed unions by writing directly to civil servants outlining ways in which it wants them to be rewarded for performance.

Civil service unions reacted by accusing the government of undermining the negotiations, which begin in earnest tomorrow. Peter Jones, secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said that the agreement had "served the country well, and has been recognised as such by governments of all persuasions for over half a century". The decision was, he said, "another example of the government's appalling attitude to the people who serve it".

Leslie Christie, general secretary of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, accused the government of seeking to provoke a dispute with the unions ahead of a general election in an attempt to enhance its prospects at the polls.

Two-thirds of civil servants are covered by pay agreements expiring on March 31. The rest have until July 31 to reach a new pay deal. The government is entering talks with both groups determined to marry this year's overall pay rise with the introduction of individual awards according to performance.

Ministers are also keen to end national bargaining. Managers of the new agencies — arm's-length operations set up to improve the cost-effectiveness of civil service units — are believed to have told ministers they need power to negotiate pay in order to better control costs.

Labour launches campaign to revive industry

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BLUEPRINT for an investment-led long-term revival of British manufacturing was unveiled yesterday by Labour leaders as they sought to make industrial policy a central battleground at the coming election.

They argued that a new partnership was needed between government and firms to restore Britain to the first rank of the industrial powers and to prevent a return to the boom and bust policies of the Eighties.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said at a London press conference launching *Made in Britain*, a glossy campaign document detailing the Opposition's prescription for recovery: "The country is in the grip of recession and the government which caused it is in the grip of paralysis."

The Labour leader argued that action had to be taken now to combat the slump and to lay the foundations for "sustained industrial and economic success".

The Conservatives have attacked Labour's approach as a return to the interventionist policies of the Sixties and Seventies that would strangle industry in red tape and subject it to politically-inspired meddling in commercial decisions.

Gordon Brown, the Opposition's shadow industry secretary, insisted that Labour had learnt its lessons from past attempts to run business from Whitehall.

The underlying political aim of Labour's campaign, to be carried forth at a series of regional launches over the next three weeks, is to dent the Tories' consistent opinion poll lead on economic competence.

Labour leaders accept that it is not enough for them to point to the damage done by

the recession to win the argument. They also have to persuade the electorate that they have a convincing remedy for the country's economic ills.

The key points of Labour's package for investment-led recovery, which would cost at least £1 billion, are:

- Bigger tax incentives for manufacturing industry.
- First-year capital allowances would be increased from their current 25 per cent to possibly 40 per cent to encourage firms to bring forward investment in plant and machinery and innovation and design.

Costs in lost revenue arise after the first year of such a change because companies pay corporation tax in arrears.

□ Tax incentives for individuals to invest in new and growing manufacturing companies.

The scheme would run for five years and be paid for by scrapping the £80 million business expansion scheme.

- Tax incentives for small and medium sized companies to encourage them to buy new equipment and computerise machinery.
- Tax incentives to encourage additional research and development by firms. Companies would be given an additional 25 per cent tax credit for extra R&D.
- An £800 million skills programme restoring cuts in government training programmes, offering new workplace courses in high technology and computing and work experience.
- Regional development agencies in England to act as "powerhouses" of regeneration and to coordinate industrial, regional and environmental policies.
- A "great green exhibition" to provide a platform for new environmental technologies.

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Psychiatrists baffled by woman's attacks on two children in her care

Nanny jailed for breaking skulls of newborn babies

By Peter Victor

A NANNY who attacked two newborn babies in her care, fracturing their skulls, was jailed yesterday for 15 months. Carol Withers, aged 28, injured the babies in separate incidents within days of their birth. Two psychiatrists' reports failed to establish why she did it.

Withers, of Lydney, Gloucestershire, was found guilty last November at Wood Green crown court in London of inflicting grievous bodily harm on Simon Hogan, aged three weeks, and Jade Ferrari, 25 days old. She was accused of fracturing the skulls of each of the babies with a single sharp blow behind the left ear.

The children recovered, but the court heard that Simon might have died if he had not had an operation to relieve pressure from fluid on his brain.

The nanny, then called Carol Prowling as she has since married, told the parents that Simon, injured in October 1989, had rolled on to toy keys left in his cot. She said that Jade, who was hurt two months later, had fallen on to a carpeted floor. Studies by Iain West, a Home Office pathologist, showed however, that the

babies had been victims of a single, forceful blow to identical parts of their skulls which left injuries that could not possibly have been caused by simple domestic accidents.

Although the babies recovered fully from their injuries after specialist treatment, the sensitive nature of their injuries means that doctors will have to monitor their progress into adult life.

Withers was remanded until yesterday for medical, psychiatric and social reports. Looking pale, drawn and near to tears, she was comforted by her husband Nigel Withers, an agricultural salesman, and her father John Prowling, the head of the country's largest agricultural seed business, before she was sentenced.

John Coffey, for Withers, asked the judge not to send her to prison, arguing that the attacks were irrational and could have brought her no satisfaction and that she had been devastated by the ordeal.

Judge Roger Cooke said there was no evidence of cruelty or revenge in the case. A psychiatrist's report showed that Withers was not suffering from any mental illness or abnormality. The

judge said: "He said there is something strange but he cannot go any further. In this case no-one has ever been able to say what happened precisely when the children were injured."

The judge told Withers: "There can never be justification for an attack on a helpless baby." He said Withers had been left in sole charge of the babies and was in a position of trust. "The offence carries a strong element of public outrage. Shock and anguish was brought on those wholly innocent families."

The sentence was welcomed by Erica Ferrari, who said outside court that she could not forgive Withers, who had told her that she attended a course at Children's Nursing College but had held back the fact that she did not qualify.

Mrs Ferrari said: "Withers lied her way into our home and nearly killed our baby after putting herself in a position of trust. We feel a custodial sentence is appropriate." She and her husband Tony, a computer firm manager, said they were relieved the case was over. "We do not believe the attack on Jade was premeditated but she must just have lost her temper," Mr Ferrari said.

Last night Kevin McMeel, Withers' solicitor, said that Withers' family was distressed at the sentence and was considering an appeal.

The Federation of Employment Services will today consider further recommendations to its members who provide agency nannies.



Attacker: Carol Withers on her wedding day. She tried to cover up assaults

Concerns of parents highlighted

WITHERS got her job with the Ferraris through word of mouth (Peter Victor writes). She was the daughter of a millionaire, privately educated in England and Switzerland and brought up on a large farm adjoining the Queen's Sandringham estate. She made such a good impression as "an upper class girl" at her interview that her references were not checked. The case highlights some of the problems for parents seeking child care.

No formal qualifications are required to become a nanny and there is no national register. Withers' case is not the only one to have caused concern.

Wendy Payne, a teenage nanny hired through a reputable agency, was put on probation for three years and ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment after she was convicted of holding a toddler's head under water and tripping her up. Another abandoned a three-month-old girl in an empty house after ransacking it for jewellery, clothes and cash. A male nanny was jailed for life for sexually assaulting children in his care.

Qualified nannies are relatively rare, and expensive. One survey found that women hiring a live-out nanny would have to earn at least £16,000 a year to cover the cost. The premier nursery

nursing qualification in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is a diploma from the National Nursery Examination Board (NNEB). About 260 two-year, full-time courses are run each year and since its inception in 1945 some 130,000 trainees have qualified.

Jane Harris-Mathews, the NNEB's assistant director, said the lack of a formal registration scheme for nannies causes enormous concern. "The NNEB is concerned that without government legislation to provide for some form of regulation for child care workers in general, it would be very difficult to set one up on our own."

Medical wards urged to cut beds by third

By Jeremy Laurance
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE national health service should close 27,000 medical beds — a third of the total and equivalent to 50 large hospitals — and switch resources saved into community services, the Audit Commission says today.

In a report running counter to campaigns of the past decade against bed closures, the commission says that the beds could be closed without reducing the number of patients treated if all hospitals were as efficient as the best. By investing more in community services, patient care would be improved.

The commission, an independent body, says that the number of hospital beds is "no longer a useful measure of the quality or quantity of the health care delivered". Developments in primary care and advances in medical technology have reduced the need for hospital care.

Since 1974, the number of NHS beds has fallen by almost a quarter and the number of in-patients treated has risen by a similar proportion. "There is plenty more scope for that to change," Howard Davies, director of the commission, said. Denmark had 20 per cent fewer beds per 1,000 patients, he said.

The report, on use of medical — not surgical — beds in 100 hospitals, says that if all health districts were as efficient as the best 25 per cent "the present level of activity in medicine [could be] provided with 58,000 beds rather than the 85,000 currently in use". Differences between hospitals arise from rates at which GPs refer patients in an emergency, how long they stay, how they are discharged and availability of community services.

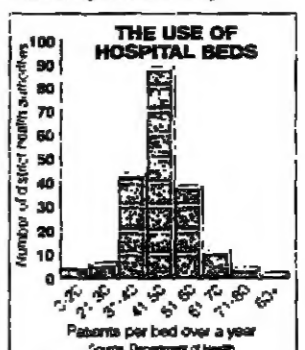
Comparable patients stay in hospital twice as long in some districts as in others, often because of differences in clinical judgment, the commission found. "Ranges that large on a district basis are concealing wider variations among individual consultants and must be examined," Mr Davies said.

However, only 52 per cent of in-patients need a doctor's attention. The rest are awaiting discharge or need only nursing care. "When you ask why the patients who should be out are not out, the answer is the lack of community support," Mr Davies said.

medical beds to surgical use, instead of closing them, would have little impact on waiting lists. "The availability of beds is only part of the problem of waiting lists," he said. "In many places there is a shortage of surgeons, operating theatres or funds."

A guide for women in the NHS launched by Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, sets out eight goals to be achieved by 1994, including increasing the number of women consultants and managers (Alison Roberts writes). Women in the NHS, a guide to the Opportunity 2000 campaign, discusses plans to ensure that women who take a career break may return to work "of a similar status" and to start retention schemes to stem the flow of nurses from the profession.

Lying in wait: the use of medical beds in acute hospitals (Published by the Audit Commission, Stationery Office, £9.50)



Patient turnover: the number treated per bed

Boom time for a broom cupboard

By Rachel Kelly
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

TINY is proving beautiful in today's depressed property market. The sale of broom cupboards is booming, the only type of residential property where demand now exceeds supply.

Once the butt of estate agents' jokes, broom cupboards could now be their saviour. "We have slight buyers waiting for the right broom cupboard to come up," Tom Trudgian, from the agency Stern Studios, said. "It is the only type of property for which we have a waiting list."

Prices in London average £20,000-30,000, and in a provincial town £12,000 to £19,000, for a ten foot by six foot box usually perched on a landing of a Victorian house where once there was a bathroom.

Purpose-built flats often have broom cupboards which are worth the name. They were once the washrooms on each floor where off-duty servants could smoke their Woodbines and store their brooms. Prices for both varieties are expected to rise by 5 per cent this year.

The increase reflects a surge in demand in the wake of British Rail's fare increases. "As rail fares and commuting costs become ever higher and less reliable, broom cupboards are experiencing a surge in popularity," Mr Trudgian says. "There is also a limited supply as it is impossible to get planning permission for new broom cupboards because they are judged too small for health and safety regulations."

Mr Trudgian has six cupboards in central London on his books. One client recently bought a 9ft by 6ft cupboard in Wimbledon, with shower and lavatory but no kitchen.

A cupboard is not, however, a place to call home: just a place to lay one's head rather than commute. And it could mean a parking space and a swanky address. Cupboard lovers have not forgotten the £36,000 paid four years ago for a broom cupboard opposite Harrods.

Mike Jarvis, of Barnard Marcus, confirms the demand in broom cupboards. "Interest is high at the moment," he said. "Cupboards are definitely moving fast."

Coroner accused at inquest

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A QC accused a coroner yesterday of an apparent conflict of interest when presiding over an inquest into the death of a climbing instructor.

Alun Jones, QC, told a new inquest into the death of Jeremy Turner, who died in a cliff fall while teaching abseiling, that Peter Brunton had opened the first inquest when he also represented the dead climber's employers.

Mr Jones said that the file was handed to the neighbouring Merioneth coroner, Donald Jones, who held a full inquest at Dolgellau. But he claimed that evidence was suppressed and withheld. The QC said that evidence which pointed to Mr Turner's being responsible for his own death when he fell 80ft from a cliff at a disused quarry in Tywyn, Gwynedd, was allowed to go forward.

The new inquest is being held after Jeremy's father, Geoffrey Turner, a retired deputy magistrates' clerk of Fartown, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, successfully challenged the original verdict of manslaughter last September. The high court ordered a fresh inquest because the Merioneth coroner had sat without a jury.

Mr Brunton, who is at the inquest to represent the employers, Celnî Experience, replied to the QC's allegations in the absence of the jury.

Witnesses told the inquest, which is expected to last three days, of the ability and professionalism of Mr Turner, of Denbigh, Cwyd, who had a degree in sports administration and management and was an experienced climber. Peter Bailey, a company director of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, said: "He seemed to slip...and toppled towards the cliff edge. As he went over I realised the safety rope wasn't attached."

Statistical snapshot

Britain goes out to cinema but stays home to shop

By Ray Clancy

IF YOU use unleaded petrol, buy your clothes by mail order and go to the cinema, you are a trendsetter, according to the latest statistical picture of life in Britain published by the government today.

Britain 1992, the 43rd handbook from the Central Office of Information, shows that almost half of petrol sales are unleaded, cinema admissions have risen by 84 per cent since 1984 and almost 20 million people buy goods by mail order compared with 16 million in 1981.

According to preliminary

results from the April 1991 census, the population is 55.5 million, putting Britain 17th in world ranking. It is predicted that the population will reach 60 million in 2011. Factors changing life most are a declining birth rate, greater life expectancy, higher divorce rate and wider educational opportunities. Families are smaller, with 21 per cent of households consisting of a couple with one or two children and 4 per cent including three or more children. The death rate has remained around 12 per 1,000 for the past 40 years.

Almost half of deaths are caused by circulatory diseases, including heart attacks and strokes. Cancer is the next largest killer, responsible for almost a quarter of deaths, and smoking is the greatest preventable cause of illness and death.

From 1984 to 1988 almost a million people went to live abroad and a similar number came here from overseas. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were the most popular destinations for the 205,000 who left in 1989. Twenty seven per cent headed there, 16 per cent to other Commonwealth countries, 22 per cent to the United States, 6 per cent to the Middle East and 3 per cent to South Africa.

A large proportion of people, 66 per cent, own their homes. The most important influence on the planning of housing and services has been the growth of car ownership, according to the report.

It says that urban deprivation remains a problem. The government spends £4,000 million a year in inner city areas, but the report adds that regeneration depends upon "the commitment of all those with an interest in the well-being of an area". Programmes have concentrated on central Scotland, the Midlands and inner London, the areas most in need.

The report lists an impressive number of urban projects and paints an optimistic picture for the future as successful programmes continue. For example, a further four "safer cities" projects are expected to join the 17 already helping communities to counteract crime.

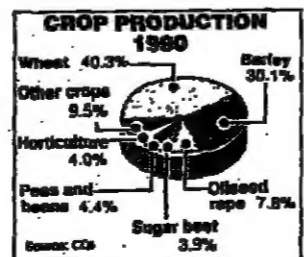
Britain 1992: An Official Handbook (Stationery Office, £17.95)

Organic farming on the increase

THE amount of agricultural land in Britain has been declining, but the loss has slowed in recent years and organic farming is receiving support (Ray Clancy writes).

The government figures show that, in 1990, there were just under 12 million hectares of crop and grassland in Britain, with 237,000 farm holdings of which 63 per cent in England, Scotland and Wales were owner-occupied. Virtually all farms in Northern Ireland are owned rather than tenanted.

There were 566,000 people working in agriculture, and labour productivity has increased by 72 per cent since 1979. Over half of full-time farmers have dairy or beef cattle, with the average dairy herd numbering 63 and each cow producing, on average, 5,137 litres of milk a year. Wheat was the biggest crop, followed by barley. Movements in agriculture



indicate more support for organic farming, mainly as a result of consumer demand. "The government aims to establish a framework in which organic farming in Britain can respond to consumer demand," Britain 1992 says. Agriculture in the 1990s is expected to be linked with caring for the environment. "Agriculture ministers have a general duty to seek to achieve a reasonable balance between the needs of an efficient and stable agricultural industry and other interests in the countryside."

Graduates scramble for jobs

By John O'Leary
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THIS year's graduates face an even tougher scramble for jobs than their predecessors, many of whom are still out of work, employers and careers advisers reported yesterday.

The recession has cut graduate openings by a third in a year, while vacancies in industry have almost halved in two years. An optimistic forecast of 4 per cent more jobs in 1992 will be swallowed up by 6.3 per cent more graduates.

The three organisations behind the annual assessment of graduate employment prospects see little chance of an early boom even if economic conditions improve. Employers' long-term recruitment plans are now geared to quality, rather than quantity, and executive turnover is low.

The organisations behind the survey, the Association of Graduate Recruiters, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services and the Central Services Unit, are advising students to widen their search for work and target applications carefully.

Tom Frank, deputy head of Birmingham University careers service, who chairs the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, said concern about the lack of good jobs was adding to the worries of students in debt.

1991 GRADUATE RECRUITMENT		
	Recruited	Unfilled jobs
Mgmt trainee	1,754	41
Personnel	180	5
Sales/marketing	782	11
Scientific/tech	2,827	88
Construction	488	8
Info tech/anal	1,286	22
Auditing	91	4
Consultancy	371	9
Accountancy	3,271	21
Other	1,894	38
All	12,924	248

Source: AGC

Reading scheme 'will aid 15,000'

By David Tytler, Education Editor

THE government's £10 million reading recovery scheme was launched yesterday by Tim Eggar, the education minister, who said that it will help about 15,000 six-year-olds over three years.

The grant is part of £20 million allocated to 28 local education authorities in the campaign to raise standards in inner city schools, covering projects to deal with truancy, numeracy, technology, and schools' links with businesses and homes.

The £154,800 given to North Tyneside in the first year, for example, would be concentrated on the reading recovery scheme in primary schools on the Meadowside estate, the site of disturbances last year, Mr Eggar said.

"There is a degree of alienation towards any kind of authority on the estate," he said, "but it is less evident in the primary schools. It was felt that one way we could improve parental contribution would be to concentrate on involving them in the primary schools."

Mr Eggar said that the scheme was required because, according to this year's tests on seven-year-olds, more than a quarter were unable to read. The scheme, developed in New Zealand, was one of the most successful in the world, he said, and would have a knock-on effect.

The net cost would be reduced if the scheme was successful, as it would no longer be necessary to teach older children and adults to read, he said.

Children who are not making any progress by the time they are six will be taken out of the classroom and given daily half-hour reading lessons. The maximum course is for 20 weeks, but many pupils reach the average reading ability for their age within 12 to 14 weeks.

The government is financ-



Eggar: hopes plan will have a knock-on effect

background, provided that they were given the right help. It was important, however, to ensure that the improvement continued, and this could only be done if the classroom teacher was involved in the scheme.

Sir Peter said that some research in New Zealand had shown that the improvement had not been maintained when children had returned to classes where they were given reading below their new-found ability.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The announcement confirms the government's appalling complacency on reading. At best, just 5,000 pupils a year can benefit from this allocation, but tens of thousands of children need reading recovery."

Spy-in-the-phone traces obscene callers within seconds



Patten: many of the callers need treatment

A CAMPAIGN to end obscene and malicious phone calls was launched yesterday in an operation involving the police and a telephone company.

The Home Office hopes that the tracing service offered to more than 170,000 subscribers to Hull's municipally owned telephone system will be adopted nationwide.

An estimated 25 million obscene calls are made in Britain, including 10,000 in the Hull area, each year. It is hoped that the Hull service, provided by Kingston Communications, will speed the capture of persistent offenders and deter others planning similar calls. The victims are mainly women aged under 50. Launching the

The heavy breathing brigade may soon find that the police have got their number — and their address. **Richard Ford reports**

scheme, part of the Home Office's safer cities initiative, John Patten, a minister of state, said: "This tracing facility offers a unique opportunity and service to the people of Hull to deal with this particularly disgusting nuisance. Malicious, violent and sexually obscene calls are disgraceful. Very often many of the people who make them are warped and some need psychiatric treatment."

Until recently telephone tracing was expensive and time-consuming but technological advances have changed that. The Hull ser-

vice uses a System X all-digital system which provides software enabling the firm to trace persistent malicious calls.

During the call, victims tap in a code number. Within seconds this activates an alarm at the company's network maintenance centre which produces a print-out of the telephone number and address from which the call has been made. The information is then passed to Humberside police. Anyone found guilty of making an obscene call faces a maximum fine of £400. The service only becomes

operational after a person has contacted Kingston Communications after receiving an initial call but police say that it should still assist in reducing malicious calls as many victims receive more than one.

Bob Spencer, project co-ordinator of Hull Safer Cities, said that many obscene calls originated locally and involved people who knew the victim. "We hope this service will act as a deterrent as too many people have not reported obscene calls because they believe little can be done and in the past those making calls have known there is little risk of detection. Now they risk humiliation of police enquiries at home and work."

A telephone survey among 710

women in Hull and 717 in Bristol found that 10 per cent in Hull and 9.2 per cent in Bristol had received an obscene phone call in the 12 months until April 1991 and that the number of calls per victim averaged 2.7 in Bristol and 3.7 in Hull. Professor Ken Pease of Manchester University, who carried out the survey, said that the similarity of rates of victimisation throughout the 1980s showed little evidence that the development of pornographic telephone lines during the 1980s had reduced the number of calls individuals received.

The research showed that those under 50 were 50 per cent more likely to receive calls than those over 50 and that there had been

an average of five calls per victim for those under 30, three for those between 30 and 70 and 1.7 for those over 70.

Thirteen per cent of those questioned in the survey thought that the caller knew their movements and 18 per cent believed the perpetrator knew them personally. Mr Pease said: "This is because, by common consent, the maker of such calls is seeking an aid to masturbation. If a caller has an image of the victim to call to mind, the aid will be more powerful."

The Home Office hopes that BT and Mercury will be able to offer a similar service by the middle of the decade. BT cannot introduce a full service because only 50 per cent of its system is digital.

Squabble sabotages tussle for tourists

By Harvey Elliott
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE American travel industry last night launched a drive to attract European visitors while Brussels officials argued over money for a counter-attack. For almost a year tourism leaders throughout the European Community have been pressing the Commission to release funds for a campaign to attract US visitors. The first phase should have begun last autumn.

The industry argued that with the Columbus celebrations, the Olympics in France and Spain and the World Expo in Seville, 1992 was the year to win back the Americans. However, Commission officials could not agree how to share 750,000 ecus, about £500,000, put aside for a promotional budget. The European Travel Commission has had to abandon hopes of launching a campaign before the spring.

The Americans have had no such problems and President Bush has agreed to appear in commercials which begin on British television next Monday at a cost of \$3 million. Europeans are already giving a significant boost to America's tourist industry, which has suffered from a drop in domestic holiday-makers. The number of Europeans visiting the United States rose to 7.17 million last year, a 7 per cent increase on the previous 12 months. British visitors increased by 5 per cent to 2.24 million and spent \$5.3 billion, a tenth of foreign spending in the US.

The number of Americans visiting Europe fell from 7.5 million in 1990 to 6.4 million last year. Michael Medlicott, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority (BTA) and Britain's representative on the European Travel Commission, said: "It is vital that we try to persuade the Americans to come back in greater numbers. They tend to come out of season, and for Britain represent 20 per cent of money spent by foreign visitors." Britain hopes to increase the amount spent on promoting it in America this year by shifting resources within the BTA budget. It will still be less than almost any other country wooing US tourists. The BTA has declined one suggestion from Brussels, that President Bush's message be countered by one from the European Commission's president, Jacques Delors.

Jail's staff took 4,200 sick days in one year

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

STAFF at a Kent prison had more than 4,000 days' sick leave in 12 months, according to a report which is critical of their attitude and the conditions for inmates.

High levels of sick leave were found among senior and other officers at Canterbury prison, which was found to be dirty and overcrowded during a visit by the chief inspector of prisons.

Judge Stephen Tumim says in his report that sickness levels at the jail resulted in 4,200 days being lost in the 12 months to March last year. "This was the equivalent of more than five working weeks for each of the 158 unified grades. There is a need for the high sickness level to be investigated and ways found to reduce it."

The report adds that Fresh Start, the shake-up in working practices designed to reduce overtime, had been introduced in name only and that much staff time was wasted with groups of officers chatting while ignoring prisoners. It criticises staff for distancing themselves from prisoners and says that the prison lacked a rapport between inmates and staff.

The report criticises the regime at the prison for not providing training for prisoners, whose only occupation was sewing, especially hand-stitching mailbags. Other tasks included making tea towels, hospital cloths and face cloths, which prisoners found boring and was of little value in preparing them for release.

The inspectors found that all three wings of the jail, which housed 349 inmates, were dirty, untidy and in need of decoration. "There is a lack of hygiene. We found dirty areas throughout the prison," Judge Tumim says. "There is a lack of expectation by staff and inmates."

In a unit for vulnerable prisoners, cells were so cluttered that security checks could have been only superficial and the condition of some cells led Judge Tumim to suspect that the staff had not checked them or were not interested in improving standards.

"We could not avoid concluding that the staff had little pride in their working environment, or interest in the conditions in which inmates lived," he says. "Canterbury has the malaise of a busy, overused local prison in an overcrowded system. Cells, landings and wings were shabby and grubby, with little care being taken by the occupants or by the staff responsible for them."

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said that overcrowding at Canterbury would be eased by the use of part of a new prison at Elmley. The government was considering converting part of Maidstone jail into a unit for use by local prisoners.

He said that there would be a full review of the regime at Canterbury after Elmley opened next month. He said that the high level of sick leave had been caused through absences by a small number of officers and that recent figures indicated that the situation was improving.

HM Prison Canterbury. Report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. (Home Office £1.50)



Musical chairs: Aline Brewer packing up her harp for the start of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's European Community tour, which begins in Luxembourg tomorrow and will include all EC capitals

Institute of British Geographers

If you've got to go to court go to Merthyr Tydfil

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

MERCY is a highly variable quality in Britain's crown courts, a pioneering study has shown.

Some courts are consistently tougher than others, both in the proportion of defendants they convict and in the sentences meted out. Merthyr Tydfil, Sheffield and Doncaster are among the best places to stand trial, with high acquittal rates. Taunton, Dorchester and Bournemouth among the worst.

Similar wide differences in sentencing exist between courts. Paul Robertshaw, of Cardiff Law School, told the Institute of British Geographers conference in Swansea yesterday. A defendant pleading guilty in some courts runs

twice as great a risk of being sent to prison as does a similar defendant in a court in another part of the country. There is no clear link, however, between high acquittal rates and low sentences.

These differences are not random variations but form a consistent pattern. Dr Robertshaw said. "The 'soft' courts stay that way, as do the 'hard', he said. He has established a clear link between soft judges and soft juries, showing that in courts where juries have a high tendency to acquit, judges often pre-empt them and save court time by throwing out cases.

"Judges who throw lots of cases out are in courts with juries who do the same, and

vice versa," Dr Robertshaw said. His figures come from a four-year study of 62 crown courts in England and Wales, excluding London and the South-East. They showed, he said, that the variations in crown courts were as striking as those in magistrates' courts, where widely differing sentences were imposed for identical offences. The offences he studied excluded the most serious, including rape and murder.

In jury trials where the defendant has been bailed and pleads not guilty, the acquittal rates range from a low of 16 per cent to a high of 50 per cent. Juries in Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Warwick, Worcester, Hereford, West Mercia and South Staffordshire typically acquit 20 per cent or less of such defendants.

However, juries in Lincolnshire, South and West Yorkshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, North Staffordshire and Devon typically acquit 40 per cent or more.

A similar pattern is found for judges, who acquit more defendants than do juries. Judges are less likely to direct an acquittal in North Wales, Cheshire, Shropshire, Worcester and Hereford and North Warwickshire than they are in Yorkshire and Humberside, Nottingham, Lincolnshire, South East Wales and Devon and Somerset.

Dr Robertshaw urged the criminal justice system to investigate the behaviour of judges and juries.

Shopping centres will have to provide entertainment and leisure as well as shops if they are to overcome growing boredom among those who use them, Peter Newby of Middlesex Polytechnic told the conference.

Shopping had become more and more predictable, with identical shopping centres containing identical shops in many British towns, he said.

Robots grill MPs in TV dungeon

In a Nineties form of the Star Chamber, a politician is shut in with cameras and computerised interrogators. **Melinda Wittstock takes a peep**

THE Star Chamber has, like Dr Who, evolved into a third embodiment. From a medieval tribunal, via the Margaret Thatcher committee where ministers defended pleas for Treasury funds, it has taken on a truly Nineties form: interrogation by robots in the cause of popular entertainment.

Under Henry VIII, victims of the Star Chamber might be sentenced to whippings and brandings. Fortunately, nothing worse than embarrassment awaits the politicians who submit to a pre-election grilling on Channel 4's *The Star Chamber*. Chris Patten, Roy Hattersley, Paddy Ashdown, William Waldegrave, Margaret Beckett and Bryan Gould are among those who have volunteered for computerised interrogation for Sunday evening broadcasts which will begin on March 1.

In a development of the programme *Star Test*,



Beckett faces questions political and personal which questioned celebrities, the volunteer is left alone for an hour inside a dungeon-like set based on original drawings of the medieval court. One autocrat, programmed with a sexy female voice, will elicit replies to numbered questions chosen blindly by the politician, while a second, much tougher "male" camera robot will circle

round the victim, asking supplementary questions when it detects a waffle here or a dodge there.

If one of the interrogating autocrats catches the politician in a fib, it will automatically present its subject with "some evidential film to the contrary", perhaps a previous speech.

"The politicians we have signed up are certainly quite courageous," Keith MacMillan, the executive producer of *The Star Chamber*, said. "The questions, carefully phrased to elicit the most interesting answers, rattle most people." He has approached John Major and Neil Kinnock to appear on the programme. Although neither has yet responded, Mr MacMillan is confident that they will agree to participate closer to the date of the general election.

More than 500 questions in the computer's memory bank range from hard politics to personal trivia. Those in the chamber seal their fate by choosing a series of numbers in six categories which are translated into questions. The categories are brain and brawn, health and wealth, green and plenty, war and peace, house and home, and crime and passion. Questions specific to the individual are hidden in the computer. "One politician might get a question specifically related to his policies, while another might get a personal question about his past," Mr MacMillan, who set up *Star Test* two years ago, said.

The questions include "What was your first sexual experience?" *The Star Chamber*'s first victim, Chris Patten, who has already been filmed, bravely tackled that one but the programme makers are keeping his answer under wraps.

Lockerbie bomb fund closes at £2.2m

Almost £2.2 million was donated to the Lockerbie air disaster fund and £374,477 was earned in interest, all of which was distributed, the final report of the nine trustees said yesterday.

The biggest sum paid was £894,175 to American relatives, followed by £456,175 to Lockerbie households. British relatives were given £162,570 and other nationalities received £22,078.

The fund was set up after the airline bombing in December 1988, which killed all 259 on board and 11 locals. Lockerbie groups received £350,000 and £115,224 was spent on three memorials in Lockerbie and one to be built in America with 270 stones shipped from Dumfriesshire — one for each who died. The trustees said: "The number and size of donations show that the goodness in mankind outweighs the evil of those who caused the disaster."

Consultant is charged

Nigel Cox, a hospital consultant, was yesterday accused of the attempted murder of an elderly woman patient. The charge follows a police investigation into the death of Lilian Boyes at the Royal Hampshire county hospital on August 16 last year.

Mr Cox, aged 46, of Colden Common, near Winchester, Hampshire, was given unconditional bail at the hearing at Winchester magistrates' court, which was adjourned until January 27.

Scout rewarded

John Hayward, aged 20, of Emsworth, Hampshire, who was born with one arm and no legs, and who uses artificial limbs, has won the Queen's scout award after learning to ski and climb mountains.

£33m meat fire

A £33 million store of frozen EC intervention beef and other meat products was destroyed in a fire at the United Meat Packers plant in Co Roscommon, in the Irish Republic, yesterday. Police said arson was not suspected.

Officer rallies

Sergeant Alan Jones, who was shot in Paddington, west London, on December 19, has left intensive care, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

Carer jailed

Craig Williamson, aged 27, a care worker of Sinfon, Derbyshire, was jailed for three and a half years by Derby crown court yesterday for sexually assaulting a mentally handicapped woman aged 25 in a Mencap home in Derby.

Guillemot dies

A guillemot nursed back to health by the RSPCA centre at West Hatch, near Taunton, Somerset, after an oil spill, in 1985, and which survived for what is believed to be a record six years in the wild after its release, has been found dead after another oil spill on the south coast.

Rescue hope

A Royal Navy Sea King helicopter with a sling will tomorrow try to rescue a cow which has been trapped for more than a week at the foot of a cliff on the Inner Hebridean island of Colonsay. The cow gave birth to a calf which died because rescuers could not reach the remote spot.

Slow coaches

A 100ft locomotive which blocked Exeter city centre yesterday after the low-loader on which it was travelling broke down, is likely to remain there for four days until spare parts are found.

THE RTZ DAVID WATT MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize is a tribute to a man widely regarded as one of the UK's outstanding writers, thinkers and political commentators.

It was introduced in 1988, following the tragic and untimely death of David Watt, to commemorate his life and work.

To be eligible, writers must be actively engaged in writing on international and political matters for newspapers and journals, and in the English language. In the opinion of the judging panel their writing must have made an outstanding contribution towards the clarification of political issues, whether international or domestic, and the promotion of their greater understanding.

The 1992 Memorial Prize, which is £5,000, is organised, funded and administered by RTZ to whom entries should be sent.

Full details and entry forms are available from The Administrator, The David Watt Memorial Prize, RTZ Limited, 6 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LD. Closing date for entries and nominations is 18th March 1992.

Mergers damage your mental health

COMPANY mergers can damage the mental health of employees, and are akin to bereavement in their impact, a conference on occupational psychology was told yesterday.

Researchers found that many of the middle management of two building societies that merged had symptoms as severe as those of mental hospital outpatients. They suffered from anxiety, depression, obsessions and a form of hysteria, the conference, organised in Liverpool by the British Psychological Society, was told.

The 1980s was the decade of mega-mergers, Sue Cartwright, of the organisational psychology department at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, said. "The Thatcher years saw a political climate

Thomson Prentice reports that mergers can hit as hard as a bereavement.

that promoted the enterprise culture or, as some saw it, the greed culture and a chance to get rich quickly," she said. "But about half the mergers in Britain failed to live up to their financial promise and the effects on those individuals involved have received little attention."

Other studies showed that mergers were linked with lowered morale, job dissatisfaction, unproductive behaviour, sabotage and petty theft, and worsening accident and strike rates. In some cases, 75 per cent of executives quit within three years of a takeover or merger. "We find that, for many people in mid-

dle management, a merger produces a profound sense of loss or bereavement. It is the death of the organisation as its workforce knows it," Dr Cartwright said.

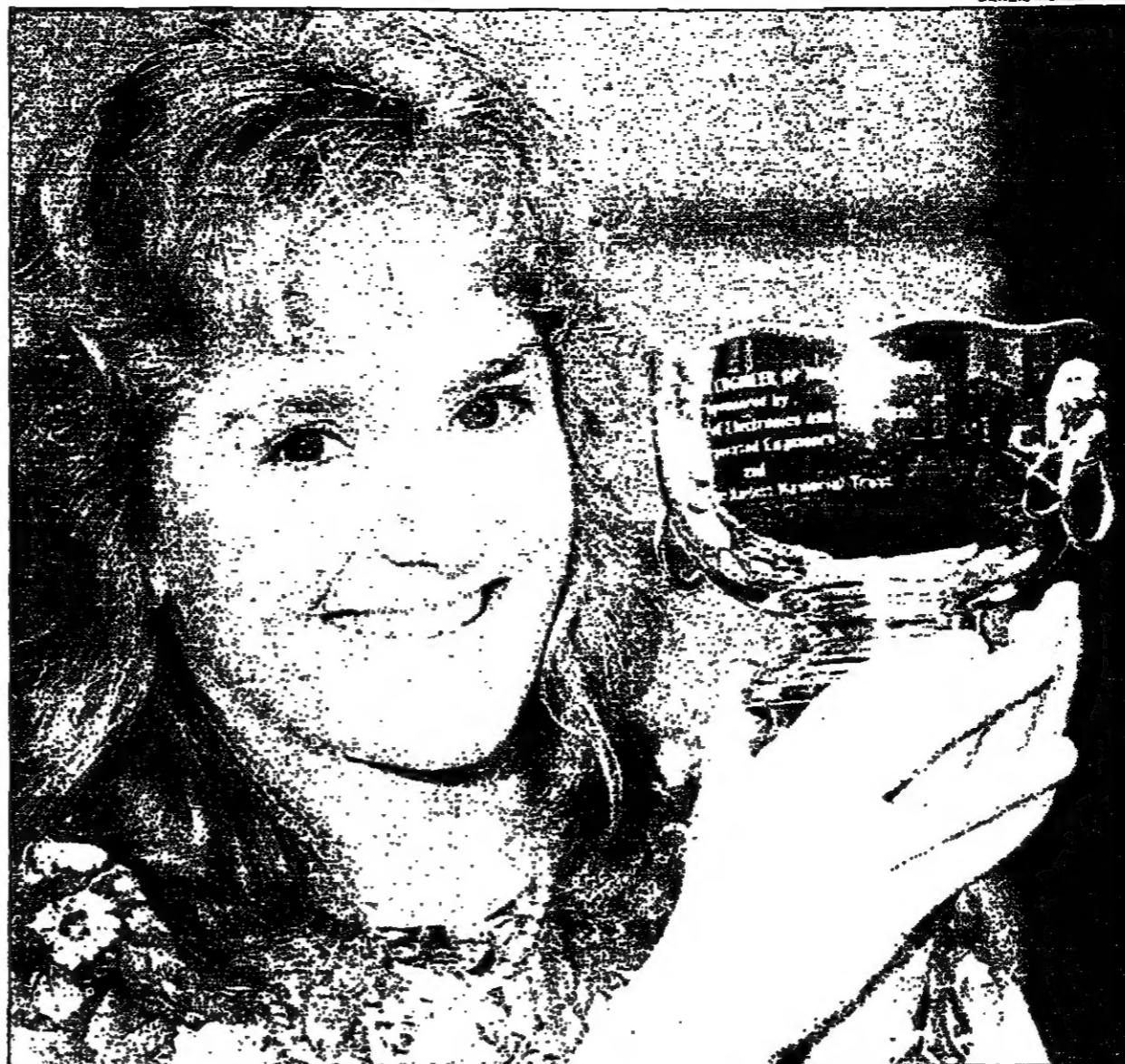
The names of the enterprise societies in the study were not disclosed, but involved more than 5,500 employees in Britain. Thirty branches were closed and many managers had to move home.

"These individuals suffered most," Dr Cartwright said. "They were remote from the top and so did not have a full understanding of the reasons for the merger. They were trying to ally the fears of those below them while themselves being most at risk of losing their jobs." Although there were no official redundancies, there was a spate of voluntary resignations after the merger.

The study of 157 of the executives, mostly men in their thirties, showed that, in the year after the merger, one in five displayed serious mental symptoms such as those found in psychiatric outpatients. Work overload was a leading source of stress, with many of the managers drinking and smoking more heavily. Many considered that their families had suffered more than themselves.

"The popular concept of a merger is that two plus two makes five; but the reality of that is that two plus two only add up to three," Dr Cartwright said.

Howard engineers an egalitarian future



Top flight: Sally Ockwell-Page, a computer systems manager in the RAF, with her award yesterday

MICHAEL Howard, the employment secretary, presented a women's engineering award yesterday and then told the prize-giving ceremony that he wished the award did not exist, because Britain should be a society in which women engineers were not unusual.

"We have a long way to go before we reach that stage, because the image of engineering has not caught up with the reality, and the industry is still seen as male-dominated," Mr Howard said after presenting the young woman engineer of the year award to Sally Ockwell-Page, aged 26, an RAF officer, for her work as computer systems manager at RAF Wyton, near Huntingdon.

Flight Lieutenant Ockwell-Page, of Tempsford, Bedfordshire, agreed with Mr Howard, and said that schoolgirls should be badgered into becoming engineers and told not to be afraid to compete with boys.

She said that she wanted to become the highest-ranking woman in the RAF engineering section and was keen to work under the pressure of war. "I wanted to go to the Gulf, but my particular experience was not needed," she said.

The award, sponsored by the Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers and the Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust, was presented in London.

Paris is dearest EC city

London: The committed European, seeking the best value for money, should buy clothes in Amsterdam, drink in Luxembourg, rent a flat in Dublin, and have a haircut in Lisbon (David Young writes).

The latest survey of living costs in the world's capital cities by *Business International*, part of the Economist Group, has found that within the EC Paris is the most expensive city, with London a close second and Lisbon the cheapest.

Scroll scan

Quinn: An American religion professor, Robert Eisenman, is using a radar scanner to comb the hills and caves that held the Dead Sea scrolls, seeking more biblical secrets. The scanner has turned up "promising cavities" where scrolls could be hidden. (AP)

See no evil

Peking: China's top film censor has banned the US film *Mississippi Burning*, dealing with the 1960s civil rights movement, on the ground that it shows the forces of American justice in too good a light. (Reuters)

Ashes return

Warsaw — After years of wrangling, the ashes of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the pianist and former prime minister of Poland who died in America in 1941, will be returned home for burial. (AP)

Blood ties

Milwaukee: A man has been accused of slashing his girlfriend with a broken beer bottle and trying to suck her blood after flying into a rage while watching a vampire film screened on television together. (AP)

Danger gene located

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

A DEFECTIVE gene that predisposes large numbers of people to hardening of the arteries, known as atherosclerosis, has been located by American scientists. The find might help to explain why some people with high blood cholesterol levels appear more at risk of strokes and heart attacks than others with equally high levels.

The discovery, by teams at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in Berkeley, California, and the Children's Hospital in Oakland, California, could pave the way to new treatments and prevention strategies for a condition which in America causes over half a million heart attack deaths each year. In the UK, about 125,000 a year die from heart attacks.

The gene, which the researchers estimate is present in a third of the population, is being linked with the accumulation in the arteries of low density lipoprotein, also known as bad cholesterol. Unlike high density lipoprotein, so called good cholesterol, bad cholesterol can stick to the artery walls, causing arteries to narrow and harden.

Ronald Krauss, one of the researchers, said yesterday the defective gene might switch on or regulate the sites on arteries that bind the cholesterol. He said the gene worked with diet to increase the risk of atherosclerosis. It might also work with other genes which have been found on other chromosomes to increase this risk.

Dr Krauss said the research indicated that people who carry the gene can reduce the risk of hardened arteries by switching to a low-fat diet. "The benefits of switching diets appears much higher in people with the gene than in those without it. The findings open the way for screening people at birth for predisposition to heart disease."

Songs of success

Barbra Streisand and Natalie Cole were nominated yesterday for Grammy awards for best traditional pop performance. Streisand was nominated for *Warm and Over* and Cole for *Unforgettable*, in which she covers songs recorded by her father, Nat "King" Cole. Other nominees in the category were Harry Connick Jr. for his album *Blue Light*, Red Light and Johnny Mathis for *In a Sentimental Mood*, songs by Duke Ellington.

Bryan Adams, George Michael, Marc Cohn, Michael Bolton, Seal and Aaron Neville were nominated for best male pop vocal. In the category for best female pop vocal, the nominees included Whitney Houston, Amy Grant and Mariah Carey.



Natalie Cole: vocal tribute to her father

The French author and journalist Jean Delage, who made a white cane the symbol of blindness, has died in Morocco in his 100th year, the French consulate in Rabat announced. Delage founded the *Carnet des Aveugles* association for the blind in France after the first world war. He wrote in an autobiography that it was his idea that the blind should carry a white cane to make them recognisable to others.

A huge memorial hall commemorating Chou En-lai, the late Chinese prime minister, has been opened in his home town of Huaiyin in Jiangsu province. The centrepiece is a 16.5ft-high white marble statue of Chou, who was instrumental in negotiating China's return to the international community during the early 1970s.

Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, aged 52, injured herself in a skiing accident at Christmas but has not interrupted her official programme, her office said. The prime minister suffered concussion and a broken coccyx during the Christmas skiing fall, said her spokesman, Oleivind Oestvang, and had suffered at most constant headaches.

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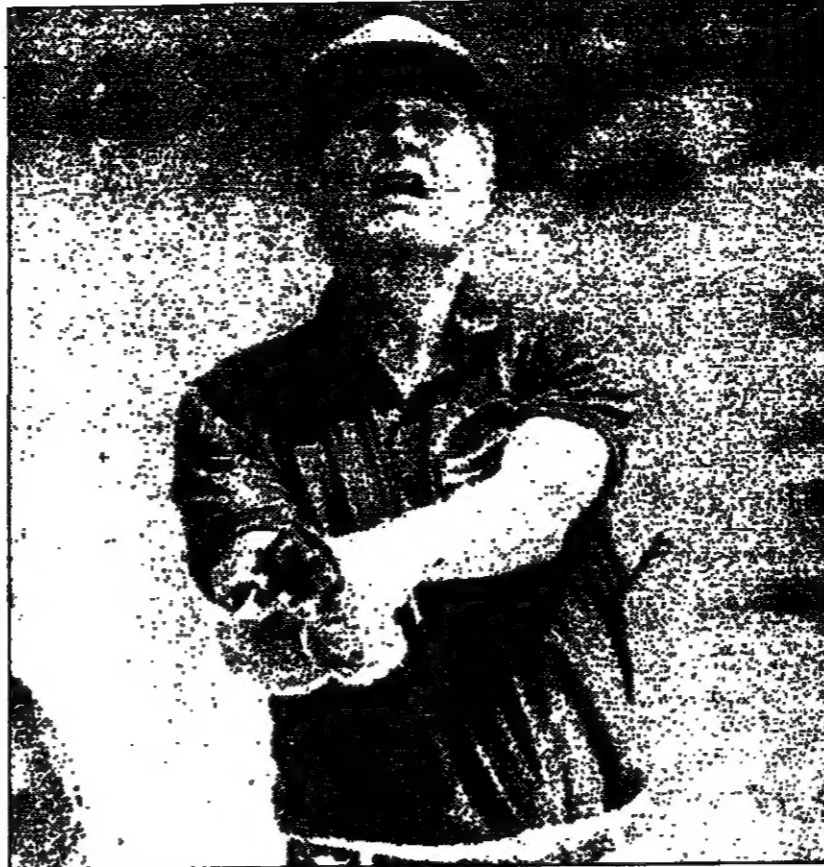
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The running, jumping, all-action president



Good sport: the Bush White House years have been hallmarked by the daily jog, throwing horseshoes, and holidays fishing in Maine and playing golf

Obsession with fitness leaves price to be paid

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, aged 67, is near fanatical about his physical fitness, running at least six miles a week at a carefully timed ten minutes a mile.

His health routine, which he promotes to American schoolchildren as though it were the Bill of Rights, includes 25 minutes on an exercise bicycle, ten minutes on a step-machine and a treadmill with a television attached that he claims to use for 40 minutes at a time. He also has an as yet unused machine to strengthen his upper body.

Exercise helped him to put politics in better perspective, he said in an interview published last week. He urged daily gymnastics in all American schools.

The president, it is said,

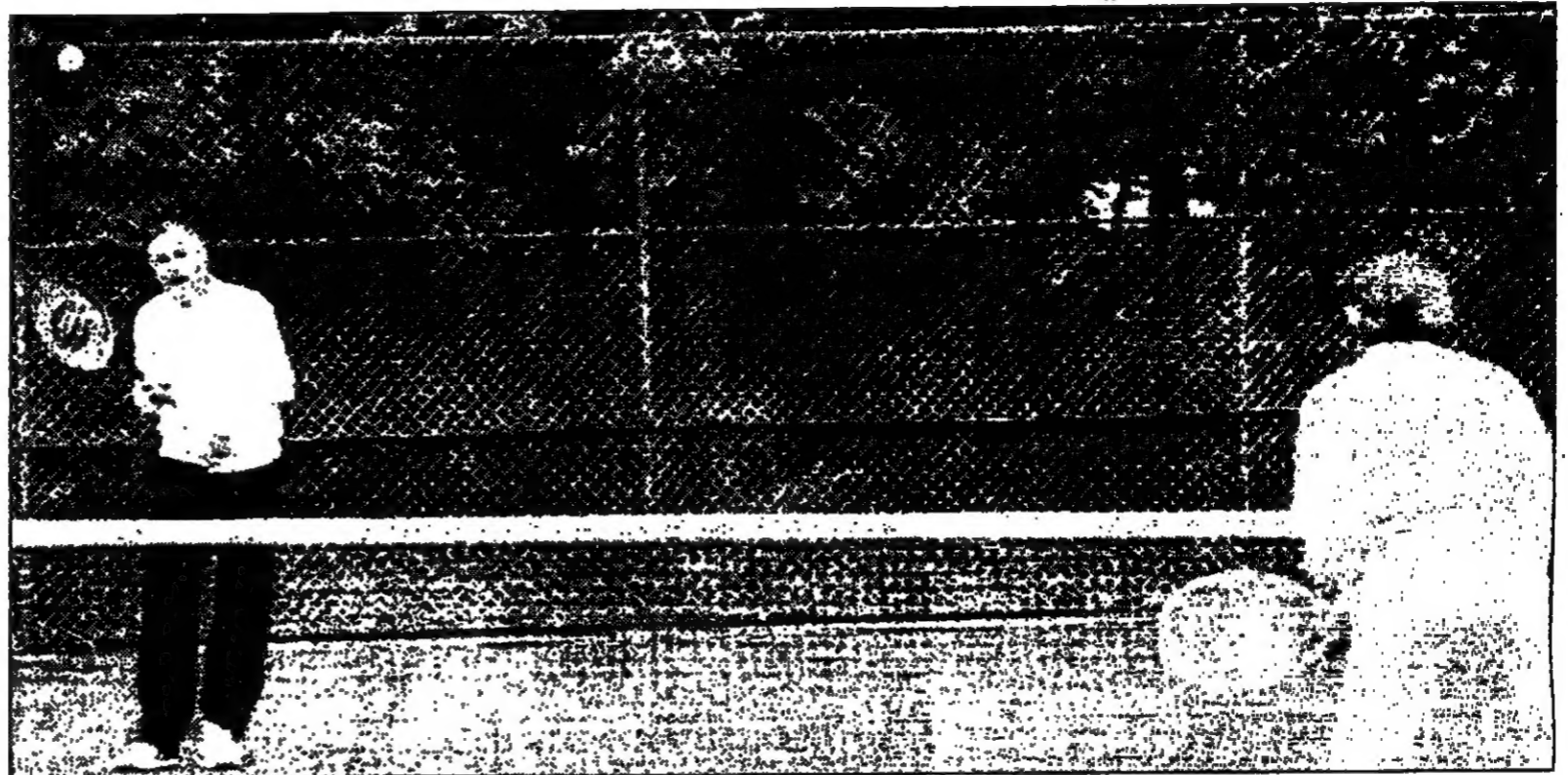
has never found a sport he does not like. In his later years he has mostly played tennis. Yesterday he had partnered Michael Armacost, the US ambassador to Tokyo, against Emperor Akihito and Crown Prince Naruhito, and lost. Barbara Bush, in jest, gave that game as a contributing reason to Mr Bush's collapse.

There is a price to pay, however, for obsession with health. Many diseases have little respect for a man's sense of how he wants to feel. Last May, when Mr Bush was found to have Graves' Disease, a thyroid condition, the impact was far greater than it would have been if the president had not been well known for his good health. So too yesterday.

Mr Bush weighs a fairly

constant 13st 3lb and is 6ft 3in tall. He does not employ a dietician but is a notoriously light eater, enjoying salads, yoghurt and chicken. Usually, only when he has to appeal to the common man does he eat Texas cafe food. He is unlikely to have regretted being unable to finish his banquet: his favourite pudding is said to be ice cream with butterscotch, for which Japan is not renowned.

Mr Bush also has suffered from glaucoma in his left eye. Like all American presidents, he is accompanied by a personal doctor on foreign trips. His choice is a friend, Dr Burton Lee, a cancer specialist from Manhattan. The job includes not only attending banquets but also attending to the White House dogs from time to time.



Net loss: Mr Bush returning a shot to Emperor Akihito during their tennis doubles yesterday. The Americans were defeated

Demands will rise in election year

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FOR a man who has pressing domestic concerns and a Secretary of State who moves from continent to continent almost every month, President Bush sets himself a punishing overseas schedule.

He covers more miles abroad each year than almost any American president has ever flown. He exercises relentlessly. His holidays consist of a dawn-to-dusk programme of fishing, golf, tennis, jogging, quail shooting and speed-boat racing. He exhausts his advisers, his political opponents and the photographers keeping breathless pace with him. And now, it seems, his body has rebelled at his schedule.

Mr Bush's overseas visits leave far less time for rest and recreation than Mr Reagan's used to. Not only does he insist on seeing more people, making more speeches and travelling to more places in less time; he still finds time to play tennis or jog before breakfast or whenever the negotiating schedule allows. Journalists accompanying him frequently find they are exhausted by the end of the trip.

The present trip to four Asian nations has already

THE BUSH SCHEDULE

Dec 30 Leaves Washington for Sydney via Hawaii
Jan 1 Arrives in Sydney
Jan 2 Sydney to Canberra
Jan 3 Canberra to Melbourne
Jan 4 Singapore
Jan 5 Singapore to Seoul
Jan 6 Seoul to Camp Casey, back to Seoul
Jan 7 Seoul to Osaka to Kyoto to Nara, back to Tokyo
Jan 8 Tokyo

lasted ten days and covered 10,000 miles. It has taken him from winter weather to the warm sun of Singapore, from barbecues in Texas to cruises across Sydney Harbour to view the fireworks on New Year's eve.

Since leaving Washington on December 30, each day has included up to 16 hours of negotiating, travelling and sightseeing, each evening being filled with official dinners. Mr Bush is an early riser, and uses each spare moment to see people and be seen, signing autographs, bathing in the crowds to shake hands, tossing out remarks to the waiting press.

He flew ten hours to Hawaii to begin his trip, jogged two miles and then flew on

another nine hours to Sydney. The next day, adjusting his body to a nine-hour time zone change, he rose early and in the afternoon went on to Canberra, where he stayed two days. He then flew south to Melbourne for a few hours, then back north to the heat of Singapore.

In the humid Singapore climate, he held a press conference in the hot sun, delivered two big speeches, visited a school and attended a state dinner in the evening. Early the next day he set off for South Korea where the temperature was about zero. In between talks with President Roh Tae Woo, he played a game of indoor tennis with him on a court only just above freezing. That night he had a private dinner with the South Korean leader.

The next day he breakfasted with business leaders, had talks with President Roh, gave a joint press conference and then a speech to the national assembly. In the afternoon, he flew by helicopter to Camp Casey to address 3,000 American troops in freezing conditions, before flying back to Seoul for a state dinner.

The next day he went on to Tokyo. But before arriving he played an impromptu part in a game of football, a type of Japanese football, at Kyoto airport. He opened a toy shop in Nara, went back by helicopter to Osaka and then went on by aircraft to Tokyo. It was at the state banquet yesterday evening that he was taken ill and collapsed.

Mr Bush's general state of health is said to be good, and his stamina is famous. But already many are asking whether his foreign journeys are not too many and too long. Although the Asian trip is gruelling, the president made several journeys to Europe last year. Now, as the election campaign gets under way, he is likely to make fewer overseas trips. But this will not cut back the physical demands on him. Indeed, they are likely to increase.

During the 1988 campaign Mr Bush criss-crossed America ceaselessly.

Health, page 9
Peter Stothard, page 12

First lady teaches damage control

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

WHILE America groaned yesterday at the humiliating end to George Bush's attempt to play the tough trade enforcer in Japan, the country drew some consolation from the extraordinary performance by his wife, Barbara.

In that moment when the vision of the collapsing president stopped American hearts during the breakfast news at home, the first lady

kept her cool at the head table in Tokyo. She then delivered a lesson in the technique of damage control and face-saving straight out of the political book.

"She's a real pro," marvelled a television commentator after Mrs Bush kept to her seat as her husband vomited, then slumped lifeless in his chair. "Imagine what Nancy Reagan would have done."

The comparison was on everyone's minds. While Mrs Bush is a calm and shrewd minder of the president's political interests, Mrs Reagan was a ferociously protective defender of Ronald Reagan's person. "Nancy would have shrieked and rushed for Ronnie," said one veteran White House watcher. Their contrasting styles could be seen in the way Mrs Reagan stayed in hospital with her husband after his two operations while Mrs Bush, with her no-nonsense upper class approach, has shrugged off George's ailments and declined to stay overnight in hospital with him.

Mrs Bush, sporting her habitual three strands of arctic pearls with her evening dress, quickly recovered her composure after her limp husband had staggered out

of the room and she managed to crack a joke loaded with symbolism. "I rarely get to speak for George Bush, but tonight I know he would want me to thank you on behalf of the administration and the Americans travelling with us," she told the assembled dignitaries and the world.

"You know, I can't explain what happened to George because it never happened before. But I'm beginning to think it's the ambassador's fault," she said to laughter. "He and George played the emperor and the crown prince in tennis today, and they were badly beaten. And we Bushes aren't used to that," she said.

In a few brief words, delivered amid uncertainty over her husband's true condition, she managed to counter the damaging images of presidential frailty and shore up the notion of his authority.

Mrs Bush's sure-footed confidence has, however, a drawback. It tends to accentuate the awkwardness in speech and demeanour often displayed by her husband, an image which will be reinforced a thousandfold as the videotape is endlessly replayed in America in this election year.



To the rescue: Mrs Bush calms public fears as she speaks after her husband's collapse

Bush falls victim to Japan's formality

FROM JOANNA PITTMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S formal, protocol-ridden routine of official ceremonies has clearly got the better of President Bush. Yesterday's first event, the official welcoming ceremony, required perhaps the most rigid and irksome etiquette of all for a man who delights in informality.

But, despite Mr Bush's collapse yesterday, his punishing schedule is likely to continue. Martin Fitzwater, the White House press spokesman, said that today's programme would probably proceed as planned except that the president would not attend a breakfast meeting with industrialists.

Assembled at yesterday's welcoming ceremony at the Akasaka Palace were Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Crown Prince Hirohito, a bachelor, and his younger brother, Prince Akihito, and his wife Princess Kiko. Kikuchi Miyazawa, the prime minister, was also present with his wife.

President Bush and Mr Miyazawa later had three hours of talks, charting a course into the next century for relations between their countries. They said afterwards that the relationship established would benefit both their nations and the world in terms of security, trade and economic development.

Nevertheless, Mr Miyazawa seems not to have allowed himself to be browbeaten into promising to buy more American products to save America from its own domestic economic problems. When asked about Japanese plans to import more American cars, Mr Miyazawa suggested that Mr Bush should reflect on why European cars were selling well in Japan while American ones are not.

After the talks, Mr Bush, wearing red, white and blue and partnered by Michael Armacost, the American ambassador, played tennis against the emperor and the crown prince at the Imperial Palace. Watched by Mrs Bush and the empress, who had earlier been on a walkabout in Tokyo, the American was defeated 2-0.

White House primed for emergency

BY PETER STOTHARD

THE Bush administration claims that it is better organised than any predecessor for the eventuality of a vice-president having to take over power. Memories of the chaos following the attack on President Reagan in 1981 ensured that, eight years later, a little-publicised planning session took place.

There was not a hint from the White House yesterday that these plans were being dusted down because of Mr Bush's indisposition in Japan, or that Dan Quayle, the vice-president, would change his schedule. "This is flu, like most of the rest of us have got, not a bullet," said one aide, "and the vice-president will be campaigning in New Hampshire, just as he intended to."

The April meeting three

years ago reviewed the circumstances under which the 25th amendment to the constitution, covering the transfer of power to vice-presidents, would be invoked. The issue of when the president should hand over his authority — either temporarily or permanently — has been a subject of frequent dispute.

Woodrow Wilson stayed in power for more than a year after a stroke made it impossible for him to carry out normal duties. President Reagan did not employ the amendment when lending the reins to Mr Bush, then his vice-president, during an operation for colon cancer in 1985.

A desire to clarify the law was part of the reason for the 1989 meeting, at which Mr Quayle was present. Dr Burton Lee, who attended the

meeting in Tokyo, and Boyden Gray, the White House counsel, were also there.

Today it would be impossible to maintain the secrecy which surrounded the condition of President Wilson, or that of the disabled Franklin Roosevelt, whose wheelchair was hidden from most voters for decades. There were still fears in some quarters yesterday, however, that the whole story about President Bush's condition had not been made known.

If it were to be decided that Mr Bush were too ill to work, the procedures are said now to be incorporated in a single book of guidance. The substance of the various legal opinions has never been made public.

In 1989, part of the secrecy was explained by fears that it

would draw attention to Mr Quayle's unsuitability to become president and thereby weaken the new administration. The polls still show that Mr Quayle is a liability to the ticket, but the fears about the Quayle effect are less than they once were.

By coincidence, the president's latest illness occurred in a week in which *The Washington Post* has been running a seven-part analysis of Mr Quayle. Its findings have been surprisingly favourable to the man whom many Americans, particularly in the media, have hitherto seen as a butt of humour.

Mr Quayle, a man of genuine sporting prowess, is now portrayed less as the innocent catapulted out of his depth by a capricious presidential choice than as a schemer.

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Moscow steps up pressure on Kiev over Black Sea fleet

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's firm statement on the need to keep the Black Sea fleet together and the postponement of talks between the fleet's commander and Ukrainian leaders yesterday intensified the bitter conflict between Russia and Ukraine over command



Shaposhnikov wants central control of fleet

of the fleet. At the same time Admiral Gennadi Khvostov, commander of the Pacific fleet, added his voice to calls for the former Soviet Navy not to be split.

The intensification of the dispute coincided with the opening of a two-day meeting in Moscow of military experts and officials from all 11 republics of the new Commonwealth of Independent States.

In the now independent Baltic states it added to tension over the status and continued presence of former Soviet troops on their territory.

In Lithuania, armed forces yesterday began a series of manoeuvres near Vilnius, the capital. The Lithuanian government said it had been given only "peremptory notification".

In Estonia, too, there was evidence of mounting tension between local authorities and former Soviet

Whether the Black Sea fleet is a strategic force or not underlies an increasingly bitter dispute, Mary Dejevsky in Moscow and Michael Evans write

troops. The government announced that it was halting bread supplies to garrisons because Russia was not delivering grain as contracted.

Mr Yeltsin, before he left for Saratov, southeast of Moscow, on the first leg of a five-city tour, said the Black Sea fleet was indivisible. "The Black Sea fleet cannot belong to any single republic. It should be under the allied command of the commonwealth," he added.

This was Mr Yeltsin's first public comment on the dispute. Ukraine wants the fleet, based at Sevastopol in the Crimea, to form the basis of the navy of independent Uk-

raine. In this is faces resistance not only from Russia but from Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commander of the commonwealth's armed forces, and the Central Asian republics.

Mr Yeltsin's use of the term "allied command", rather than "single" or "joint" command, indicates, however, that he may be coming round to the view that any commonwealth armed forces, except those directly concerned with strategic nuclear weapons, will have to be built up from the separate armed forces of individual republics and combined into an alliance.

Admiral Igor Kasatonov,

commanding the Black Sea fleet, postponed his meeting with Ukrainian officials until today, choosing yesterday to receive a party of Moscow journalists at Sevastopol instead. He said that the fleet should be kept under commonwealth command and argued that Ukraine could not afford to maintain it.

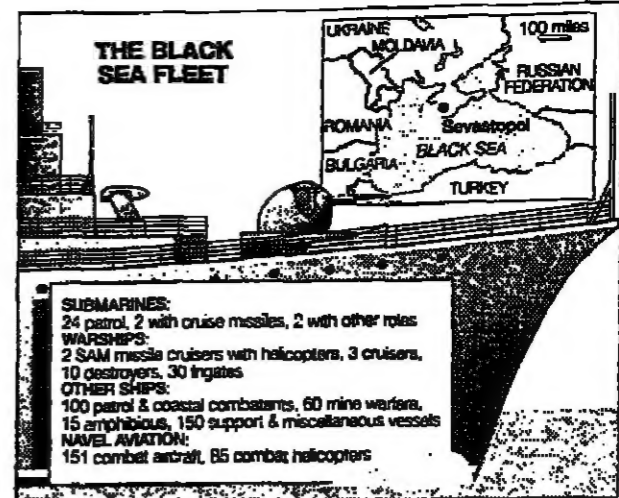
The Black Sea fleet is the third largest of the four fleets of the former Soviet Union, and equipped only with conventional weapons. Its non-strategic character lies at the heart of the present row, while Ukraine accepts that strategic systems should be controlled by the commonwealth, the republic insists on commanding all conventional weapons on its territory.

Military commanders in Moscow say the fleet must remain under centralised, effectively Russian, control be-

cause it is supposed to be a counter to the American Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. Maintenance of a naval presence in the eastern Mediterranean, as well as patrolling the Black Sea, is the Black Sea fleet's principal mission.

Another concern is that the fleet is located not only in Ukraine. There is a base at Poti, in Georgia, as well. The fleet is also said to use the large Russian commercial port at Novorossiysk.

Because of the mild climate, the Black Sea boasts the only ports which are free of ice throughout the year. There is, however, only one exit, through the 180-mile Turkish Straits, which are controlled by Turkey. Under the Montreux Convention, Turkey must be given eight days' notice of the passage of warships through the straits



and submarines are allowed through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles only if bound for repair and maintenance. Until last month, the Black Sea fleet included one aircraft carrier, the 65,000-ton Ad-

miral Kuznetsov, which was built at the Ukrainian shipyard at Nikolaev. But, after a work-up period in the Black Sea, the carrier moved to the Northern fleet base at Mur-

mansk.

Saboteurs hit at Georgia regime

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

THE new government in Georgia faced sabotage by electricity workers and a rebellion by an entire provincial town yesterday, while Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the deposed president, was said to have been stopped by police from leaving his sanctuary in Armenia.

As Armenian parliamentarians considered whether to extradite Mr Gamsakhurdia to his homeland or send him to France at his request, there were reports of a violent clash in Idzhevan, the town in the Armenian mountains where the fugitive leader is said to be living in a former communist rest home for composers.

A prominent member of Tbilisi's Armenian community said he had been informed by the government in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, that police had blocked an escape attempt by Mr Gamsakhurdia and his entourage.

which is said to consist of 12 family members and close aides, plus 100 fighters and loyal politicians. There were unconfirmed reports that a shootout had taken place.

The new regime in Tbilisi claimed to be edging the republic back to normality, as all the security forces, police, soldiers and intelligence officers, accepted its authority. But the regime, which forced Mr Gamsakhurdia to flee on Monday, admitted that wildcat groups had practically ignored orders to hand in their arms.

There were reports from many districts of Tbilisi and the Georgian provinces of blackouts engineered by the electricity workers' union, which has always been a strong supporter of Mr Gamsakhurdia. These power failures were heightening an atmosphere of instability and providing a cover for acts of

violence, both politically inspired and purely criminal.

The biggest stronghold of resistance to the new government was the western Georgian town of Zugdidi. Most of its 120,000 inhabitants are Megrelians, an ethnic group to which Mr Gamsakhurdia also belongs.

The prefect of Zugdidi, Indiko Kobalava, is a fierce Gamsakhurdia loyalist who has organised mass protest meetings and proclaimed the campaign of civil disobedience in defiance of the newly installed authorities. But calls from supporters of Mr Gamsakhurdia for strikes in all sectors have been greeted by many with the cynical comment that most enterprises are at a standstill anyway because of shortages of fuel and other utilities.

Life in Tbilisi was visibly returning to greater normality, however, as efforts began to clean up the destruction left by two weeks of artillery battles and machine-gun fire in the historic city centre.

A demonstration by about 1,000 people in support of the deposed president passed off peacefully yesterday, despite threats by the new regime's strongman, Jaba Ioseliani, that he would disperse all public meetings. There was continuing dismay and embarrassment about an incident on Tuesday in which one loyalist demonstrator is reported to have been killed and two badly wounded after being fired on at close range by forces loyal to the new regime. A spokesman for the government, Mamuka Arshidze, said that the incident was "a mistake".

In his first interview since leaving the parliament, Mr Gamsakhurdia told Armenian reporters he was still the president of Georgia and was not going to resign.

Leading article, page 13

Angry shoppers mob Yeltsin

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

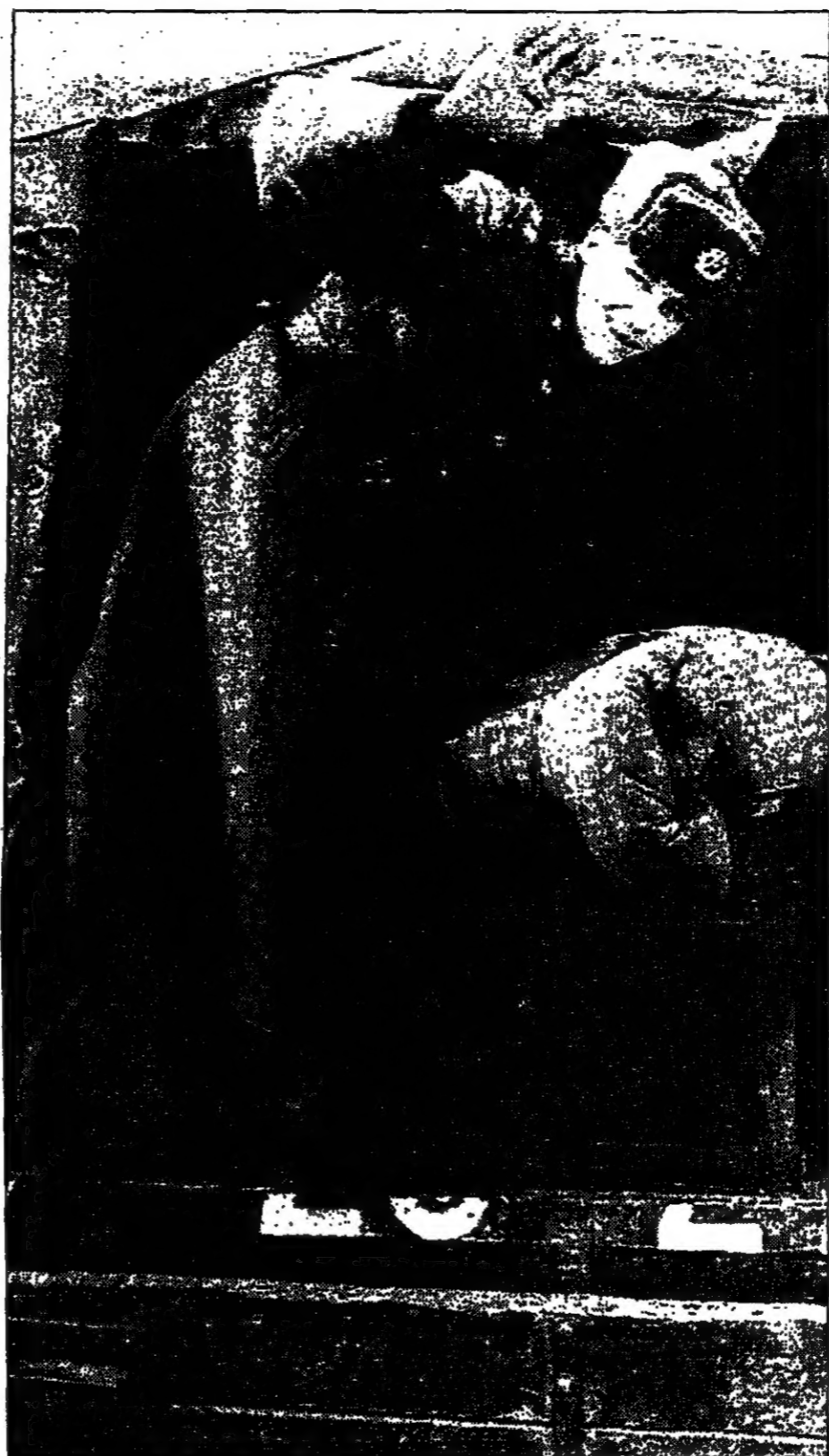
PRESIDENT Yeltsin of Russia was mobbed in the town of Engels yesterday by a crowd angry at price rises and the possible restoration of a German autonomous region in the Volga area, Tass reported.

Mr Yeltsin is on a whistle-stop tour of several Russian cities to explain the need for drastic economic reforms, including the freeing of prices on January 2, which has tripled the cost of foodstuffs on average without, so far, increasing their supply. Mr Yeltsin had said he intended to "evaluate the situation in the regions, see how the liberalisation of prices is going, along with economic and

agrarian reforms and people's state of mind".

In Engels, formerly the capital of the Soviet German autonomous republic, disbanded by Stalin in 1941, Mr Yeltsin told demonstrators that German settlements would be recreated only on vacant land or where the local population did not object. In November, thousands demonstrated against plans to allow the return of ethnic Germans, deported by Stalin to Siberia and Kazakhstan.

Mr Yeltsin is later scheduled to visit the Volga town of Ulanovsk, Nizhni-Novgorod, formerly Gorky, Briansk and St Petersburg.



Farewell manoeuvre: a soldier joining a convoy of 100 troops leaving Kiev for Moscow after Ukrainian authorities demanded an oath of allegiance

Major's UN call wins backing

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

A HECTIC diplomatic effort by Britain has persuaded world leaders to come to New York this month to boost the United Nations as a peace-maker after the Cold War.

Despite some pointed remarks from the French over John Major's political motives, the leaders of France, Russia, the United States, Japan and most other members of the 15-strong security council have indicated their willingness to spend January 30 at UN headquarters and to put their names to a broad three-part declaration charting a path for the new era.

The gathering is aimed at giving a big-power launch to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the new secretary-general of the UN, and to bolster the organisation as a force for peace in a world in which superpower rivalry has given way to potentially dangerous local and regional wars. The permanent powers on the council want the secretary-general to be more active in "preventative diplomacy", identifying threats to peace and intervening to defuse them.

The gathering will also amount to an endorsement of President Yeltsin of Russia, and of his country's elevation to the old Soviet mantle at the UN. Western diplomats were playing down this aspect, however, not least because many states are upset over the way Russia was ushered into the Soviet permanent seat on the council over Christmas without any general debate.

The future of the former Soviet Union's huge nuclear arsenal and its associated atomic industry will be high in the thoughts of the leaders when they discuss new plans for preventing proliferation of all types of weapons.

Beware: slightly used airline

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

FASTEN your safety-belts for Ukrainian Airlines, the first of many independent carriers that will replace Aeroflot in the skies above the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Passengers will be spared the bullying and surlyness of Aeroflot stewards, but they are still in for a bumpy ride. The fleet will be made up of surplus Ilyushin-62s and Antonov-24s, discarded by the Polish airline, Lot, which is aiming to fly only Western aircraft. The Ukrainians may think they have a bargain — \$15 million (£8 million)

They don't need so much fuel since we changed the stewardesses



for seven roomy Ilyushins and the ten smaller Antonovs — but the Poles are happy to get rid of the Soviet-made fuel-guzzling aircraft.

As a Polish parliamentary deputy, Wladyslaw Serafin, said yesterday, Kiev may come to regard the sale as an unfriendly act. "We keep on reading in the Polish press that these aircraft are not safe enough to carry Poles; why should they be safe for Ukrainians?" The last big air disaster in Eastern Europe was in 1987 when an Ilyushin-62 crashed outside Warsaw.

Cubans capture 'rebels'

HAVANA: Cuba said its security forces had captured three armed "terrorists" who landed in a dinghy after being dropped from a boat from the United States.

The interior ministry said the three "counter-revolutionaries", who all lived in Miami, "belong to a terrorist organisation which operates from US territory and were trained and sent to Cuba to carry out violent acts against the revolution". (Reuters)

Swedish alert

Stockholm: A court was ordered off for the appeal of Klas Lund, a neo-Nazi, aged 23, jailed in November for bank robbery. The tight security followed a bomb blast in the city on December 30 which injured a policeman.

Bomber jailed

Address: A Greek court sentenced Muhammad Rashid, a Palestinian commando, to 18 years' jail for the bombing of a Pan Am plane over Hawaii in 1982. A Japanese teenager was killed and 15 others were hurt in the blast.

Teresa walking

La Jolla, California: Mother Teresa continued her recovery from bacterial pneumonia and a heart condition and has been able to get out of her hospital bed and walk, doctors said. But the nun, aged 81, remained in the intensive care unit. (AFP)

British officers to join Yugoslav monitors

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is ready to join the United States, Russia, China, France, and 16 other countries in sending a team of 50 military observers to Yugoslavia later this week. The contingent will form the advance guard of a large-scale United Nations peacekeeping force.

After yesterday's formal request for 21 selected countries to send two or three monitors to Yugoslavia, Britain sought reassurance over the provisions envisaged for their safety. A defence ministry spokeswoman said: "Obviously we're concerned to protect the safety of the people we send out there."

The Foreign Office said the

role of the UN observers would be different from that of those from the European Community who, until the death of five EC officials on Tuesday, were monitoring the ceasefire in the field. The UN observers will be based at the Yugoslav National Army's headquarters in Belgrade and the Croatian People's Guard headquarters in Zagreb to act as liaison officers between the two sides.

The British contribution is likely to be taken from its team of 20 military observers now attached to the UN mission on the Kuwait-Iraq border under the command of Colonel Robin Garret. The

UN Security Council draft resolution on sending a team to Yugoslavia stipulates that the observers should be drawn from existing peacekeeping operations. Britain presently also has 800 personnel serving in Cyprus.

Speaking for the security council, of which he is president this month, Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador to the UN, said the peacekeeping operation would go ahead as planned in spite of the shooting down of the helicopter carrying the EC monitors and the suspension of the EC mission. He said the 50 UN monitors would be in place soon. UN sources suggested they would leave for Yugoslavia before the end of the week. The cost of the force is put at \$2 million (£1.06 million) for the first month and \$700,000 for the second.

The other countries invited to provide observers are: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. Russian peacekeepers are presently serving on the Kuwait-Iraq border and in Jerusalem. The monitors could eventually be absorbed into a 10,000-man UN peacekeeping force, provided the ceasefire holds.

Leading article, page 13

Genscher offers vision of future to EC and Nato

THE horizons of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, are widening. Today, Europe. Tomorrow, as he made clear this week, the world. "Genscher plans a security zone from Vancouver to Vladivostok," the economic daily newspaper, Handelsblatt, reported yesterday.

Herr Genscher had been spelling out his vision of the future during his annual year meeting with the press. Unimpressed by complaints from President Mitterrand that Germany had abandoned "the spirit of Maastricht" to go it alone on recognition of Croatia and on raising the bank rate, he claimed that German policy had often been criticised in the past only to win wide support later.

Despite reports that the American State Department was concerned by Germany's assertiveness in Yugoslavia, he insisted that Bonn's decision to recognise Croatia and Slovenia had contributed to the success of the present ceasefire. That would become ever clearer as time went by.

"We are always ready to take criticism from Washington seriously," he said. "But in the case of recognition of Slovenia and Croatia this is groundless." He said that the two republics, with members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, ought to become members of the Con-

Recognising Croatia is only a first step: the German foreign minister is feeling his way towards a world role for Bonn, reports Ian Murray

ference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) when it meets in Prague on January 30 and 31.

He added that he was trying to persuade NATO to convene a special session of the North Atlantic Co-operation Council immediately after the Prague meeting to confirm the inclusion of the countries as new members. The essential thing, he said, was to prevent the creation of a security vacuum after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

The German minister seemed confident that the EC and Nato would follow his lead. Since Germany persuaded the rest of the Community last month to agree criteria for recognising the independence of Yugoslav republics, the foreign minister, aided and abetted by Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, has made most of the diplomatic running. "We have to accept that the Germans are unstoppable on this," one senior EC diplomat in Bonn admitted yesterday.

President Mitterrand's criticism nevertheless prompted the popular daily, Bild, to

wonder on its front page yesterday: "Is Germany becoming too powerful for the world?" It set out seven reasons why the rest of the world might think so: recognition of Croatia and Slovenia; independence from American influence; the claim for more seats in the European parliament; and for Germany to be an EC official language; setting conditions for EC monetary stability; reconstruction of east Germany; and friendship with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The paper ridicules each of those reasons and found comfort in an interview with Dr Rainer Zitelmann, professor of history at Berlin's Free University. With unification it was inevitable that Germany would form its own foreign policy, he said.

"Any country would have been the same. The Germans should not be sensitive. They must resign themselves to the fact that now they will be criticised more than before."

There is widespread understanding of that point of view among diplomats in Bonn. One said: "We cannot make up our minds whether we want Germany to be powerful or not."

Inside the foreign ministry, though, there is no feeling that a new assertiveness is at large. "We have greater responsibilities and a duty now to take a lead on occasion," an official said.

Fears of Algerian coup rise

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A LEADER of the Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria claimed yesterday that the armed forces are being deployed in strength throughout the country. As diplomatic sources in Algiers confirmed that tanks and other military units were taking up positions around the capital, the government refused to make any official comment.

With the second round of the general election now only a week off, there is mounting speculation that the army may be poised to intervene in order to prevent the almost inevitable victory of the Islamic Salvation Front.

"We want to know what justification there can be for this deployment," Abdelkader Hachani, a senior official of the Islamic Salvation Front, said yesterday. "If it is because of the second round, why have they moved into regions where seats were decided at the first poll?"

According to Mr Hachani, there is still no sign that the Algerian government is making arrangements for next Thursday's vote, which most observers expect to complete the fundamentalists' victory over the ruling National Liberation Front of President Chadli Benjedid.

Handwritten note: 1 من 1

Dispute at Jordan border adds to peace talk niggling

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ARAB delegates to the Middle East peace talks are expected to begin arriving in Washington today to resume contacts with Israeli negotiators at the start of next week.

However, the talks, which were delayed this week when Arabs protested at an Israeli deportation order on 12 Palestinians, nearly ran aground a second time yesterday when Israeli security officers refused to allow three Palestinian advisers to cross into Jordan. Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinians, declared angrily in Amman: "We told the Israelis that if they kept trying to impede the work of the delegation we would go back to our country and we really thought of doing so."

The three Palestinians, identified as Tawfiq Barghouti, Hatem Abdul Kader

and Bilal Nauseh, eventually were allowed to cross into Jordan over the Allenby bridge after a standoff which delayed the delegation by three hours. The dispute was indicative of the total lack of trust between the two sides, whose progress in the peace talks is likely to determine the success or failure of the other two bilateral negotiations between Israel and its two northern neighbours, Syria and Lebanon.

Although Palestinians and Israelis have emphasised their determination to overcome the nagging procedural problems, which confined their last talks to the corridors of the State Department, it still seems unlikely that any real progress on substantive issues can be made.

Mrs Ashrawi said that a number of compromises were

now being discussed to overcome the dispute over whether the Israelis should meet the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in one room, as Israel demands, or if the team should break up into two separate sides, one to discuss Jordanian issues, the other Palestinian.

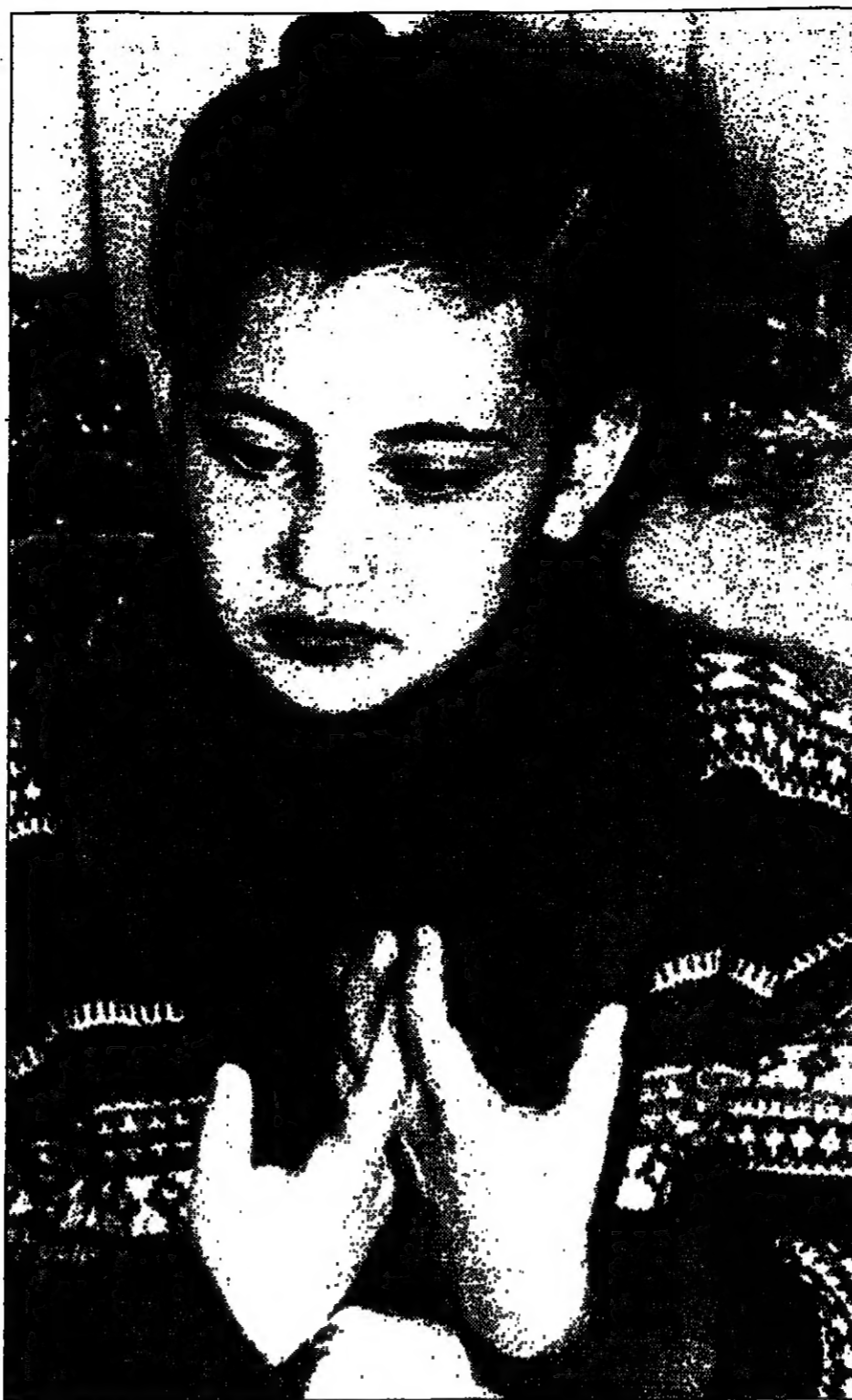
The procedural problem may appear superficial but it goes to the heart of the Palestinian search for legitimacy as an equal negotiating partner, and Israel's reluctance to grant full status to representatives of a land they occupy and claim. The Palestinians want the West Bank and Gaza Strip to form the basis of an independent Palestinian state, while Israel demands sovereignty over the whole area but is prepared to offer the Palestinians limited autonomy.

Ghassan Khatib, another Palestinian delegate, said yesterday that his team was not prepared to begin talks on the occupied territories until Israel stopped its policy of building Jewish settlements in the area. This has been rejected by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister.

For his part, Mr Shamir is reluctant to move into substantive talks at this stage because two small right-wing parties in his coalition government have threatened to leave the cabinet if the matter is raised at the negotiating table. Israeli officials yesterday predicted that the talks were also unlikely to proceed beyond procedural matters, because the Israeli delegates would be returning by the middle or end of next week.

● **Harare:** Ibrahim al-Beshari, the Libyan foreign minister, proposed yesterday that international observers attend the interrogations of two Libyans suspected of bombing the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie in December 1988. Britain and the United States have called for the extradition of the two Libyans believed to have been behind the explosion. France wants access to those held responsible for the bombing over Niger of a French UTA airliner in September 1989.

Two hundred and seventy people were killed when the Pan Am jumbo jet was blown up over Lockerbie, in southern Scotland. "Libya condemns the Pan Am incident and it publicly condemns all acts of terrorism and will co-operate with the international community," Mr al-Beshari said as he emerged from talks with President Mugabe of Zimbabwe. (AFP)



Literary agent: Yara Jalajel, a West Bank girl aged nine, who is a member of the Palestinian Writers' Union and described as "absolutely brilliant"

Diamonds are for ever the Giscard curse

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

The affair of the Bokassa diamonds returned to haunt France's former president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, yesterday, more than a decade after the original controversy that so clouded his final years in office. A court in Paris fined his daughter, Valérie-Anne, 5,000 francs (about £500) and ordered her to pay another one franc in symbolic damages for the defamation contained in her father's memoirs of the man who had provided the most damaging material for the original revelations.

In normal circumstances, M Giscard d'Estaing would himself have been in the dock, but as a member of the European parliament he enjoys immunity from this type of proceedings in France. As editor of the much-praised second volume of the memoirs—entitled *Le Pouvoir et La Vie*—his daughter was then pursued by Roger Delpey, demanding redress for allegations made by the ex-president in his account of the scandal.

The court accepted that the passages to which M Delpey took gravest exception were "manifestly defamatory" because they amounted to claiming that his part in an affair that set all France gossiping for months had involved committing criminal acts.

According to M Giscard d'Estaing, M Delpey was "motivated by political hatred" in passing the French satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* documents that launched its investigation of the gift of

diamonds he accepted from Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the tyrannical ruler of the Central African Republic. The memoirs relate how the French domestic intelligence service established that the papers had been handed over in a cafe on the Quai Voltaire and had subsequently raided M Delpey's house.

In his memoirs, M Giscard d'Estaing recalls the day in October 1979 when his *chef de cabinet* came rushing in to announce that *Le Canard* was running the story, across a full page, featuring a letter from Bokassa which claimed that the 30-carat stones he handed over had been worth about one million francs.

To this day, the former president insists that the gems were worth very little, but the scandal they stirred up was to hang over him until his defeat in 1981.



Bokassa: his gift set all France gossiping

Carey fears for fading flock

BY RICHARD BEESTON

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said yesterday that the Christian population of the Holy Land could disappear within 15 years, turning Jerusalem and Bethlehem into little more than Walt Disney theme parks for Christian pilgrims.

Dr Carey, at the end of his six-day Middle East visit, said he was optimistic that a solution to the Middle East conflict was possible because of the commitment of Arab and Israeli leaders. However, he criticised the "rough justice" of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, in seeking the deportation of 12 Palestinian activists.

The archbishop said that the continuing conflict could lead to the extinction of the ancient but vulnerable Chris-

tian community of the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem. Christian Arabs, including the small Anglican population, were emigrating to the West in increasing numbers because they felt that they were a victimised minority among the dominant Jewish and Muslim communities. He said: "My fear will be that in 15 years Jerusalem and Bethlehem, once centres of Christian presence, will become Walt Disney theme parks."

The Anglican bishop in Jerusalem, Samir Kafity, estimated that 70 per cent of the Christian population of Jerusalem had left since the formation of the state of Israel in 1948. He attributed the flight to the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict, and in particular to the lack of rights and opportunities for Palestinians.

Bernard Sabella, a sociologist at Bethlehem University who has studied the trend of Christian emigration, has concluded that the overriding reasons are economic. However, the exodus of Christians, which can be traced back to the last century, has reached a critical level, with 18,000 Palestinian Christians emigrating from the occupied territories, including Arab east Jerusalem, since 1967. There are today only an estimated 35,000 Christians in the area, 9,000 of them in Jerusalem.



Shamir dispensing "rough justice"

Bomb attack fails to deter Simon

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

ARRANGEMENTS for the two weekend concerts in Johannesburg by Paul Simon were going ahead as planned yesterday despite a bomb attack on a firm involved in providing sound equipment.

The American entertainer, whose visit to South Africa effectively ends years of isolation of the country by the world's superstars, was staying out of public view after flying in late on Tuesday. The singer said he was surprised that last-minute objections to his visit had been raised by the Pan Africanist Congress and the Azanian People's Organisation.

A few hours after his arrival

an explosion blew out the windows of a Johannesburg company contracted to set up sound equipment at the Ellis Park stadium, where the two concerts will be held on Saturday and Sunday. Nobody was hurt and little damage was caused.

The Azanian National Liberation Army, the military wing of the black-consciousness people's organisation, claimed responsibility yesterday and threatened further attacks. South African security sources indicated that the liberation army was regarded as a fringe group with little support. Nevertheless, the threat to the concerts is

being taken seriously and 800 security officers will be drafted at the weekend to the Ellis Park stadium.

Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, which has endorsed Simon's visit, is to host a cocktail party for him at his Soweto mansion outside Johannesburg tomorrow night. Yesterday, Mr Mandela addressed a mass rally at a rugby ground, the Free State stadium in Bloemfontein, which was taken over for the day by the ANC to mark the founding of the organisation in the capital of the Orange Free State 80 years ago. A buffet lunch was laid on for

Mr Mandela and the ANC leaders by Bloemfontein city council, which is under National party control.

Mr Mandela made a long speech, in which he had been expected to deliver an important ANC policy statement. That failed to materialise. He repeated the ANC's demands for rapid progress towards the installation of an interim government and the establishment of a professional security force that would include, as well as units of the South African Defence Force and the police, contingents from Umkonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, and other organisations.

UK offers Kashmir mediation

FROM REUTERS IN ISLAMABAD

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, urged Pakistan and India yesterday to negotiate an end to their dispute over Kashmir.

"We have said that if there is any role that we can play then we will be happy to help," Mr Baker added at a press conference closing a two-day visit to Pakistan.

India has rejected previous offers of mediation over the Muslim uprising in Indian-ruled parts of Kashmir. More than 5,600 people were killed in the conflict last year.

Fears about television interference will increase today when a new satellite is switched on. Nick Nuttall reports

A battle alert in the sky over television pictures

A satellite will be switched on high above the Congo today, ready to support Europe's demand for more telephone, data, digital radio, mobile communications and television services. The event would normally attract little attention. Switching on a satellite has become almost commonplace.

This craft, called Eutelsat II F3, and launched from Florida last month, is an exception because it triggers fierce controversy between two of Europe's leading satellite operators over the interference it could cause to television programmes.

The dispute, which has simmered for nearly three years, highlights concern that the skies above Europe are fast becoming congested.

Phil Haines, a technical expert with the 28-nation Paris-based European Telecommunications Satellite (Eutelsat) organisation, whose members include BT and France Telecom, explains: "There are now about 30 satellites at orbital slots from the western to the eastern horizon of Europe. By the end of the century that figure could have grown to about 40. The problems are just beginning

and they are going to build up over the coming years."

The siting of the new craft next to two Astra satellites operated by the Société Européenne des Satellites (SES) is at the centre of the present wrangle.

Astra's transponders are leased to European television companies such as BSkyB, the television service partly owned by News International, the publisher of *The Times*.

The Eutelsat craft is taking an orbit of 16 degrees east, only 3.2 degrees from the Astra orbit of 19.2 east.

Both operators have also been allocated identical frequencies in the 11.45 to 11.70 gigahertz range by the global telecommunications advisory body, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), in Geneva.

If the Eutelsat craft carries only data, telephone and mobile telecommunications, Astra's transmissions should be secure. The industry expects, however, that the craft will transmit television

broadcasts, which are more powerful.

Eutelsat's customers can expect trouble-free transmissions because, as professional or business customers, they will use bigger, more expensive receiver dishes, at least 80cm wide. Astra's operators have, however, pioneered direct-to-home mass market services around smaller domestic, less expensive, 60cm dishes. Bigger dishes, which are essentially large magnifying glasses, can focus the beams from satellites more finely, but smaller ones are less precise. As the satellites are so close

to one another, the owners of smaller dishes, of which there are about two million in Britain, could pick up some transmissions from both craft.

Although Eutelsat's new craft switches on today, its members may not take up all its capacity for several months.

Simon Orme, of NEC (UK), the Japanese maker of receivers, believes interference on some Astra channels is "quite likely". Yves Feltes, of SES, believes there may be interference for viewers with badly fitted dishes.

But a spokeswoman for BSkyB said yesterday that an independent report ruled out any interference for British viewers. "It is potentially a much bigger problem for viewers in the rest of Europe," she said.

At the Royal Aeronautical Society in London yesterday, SES revealed plans that it claims would solve any problems of

interference. The scheme calls on Eutelsat to route television broadcasts through its six other satellites.

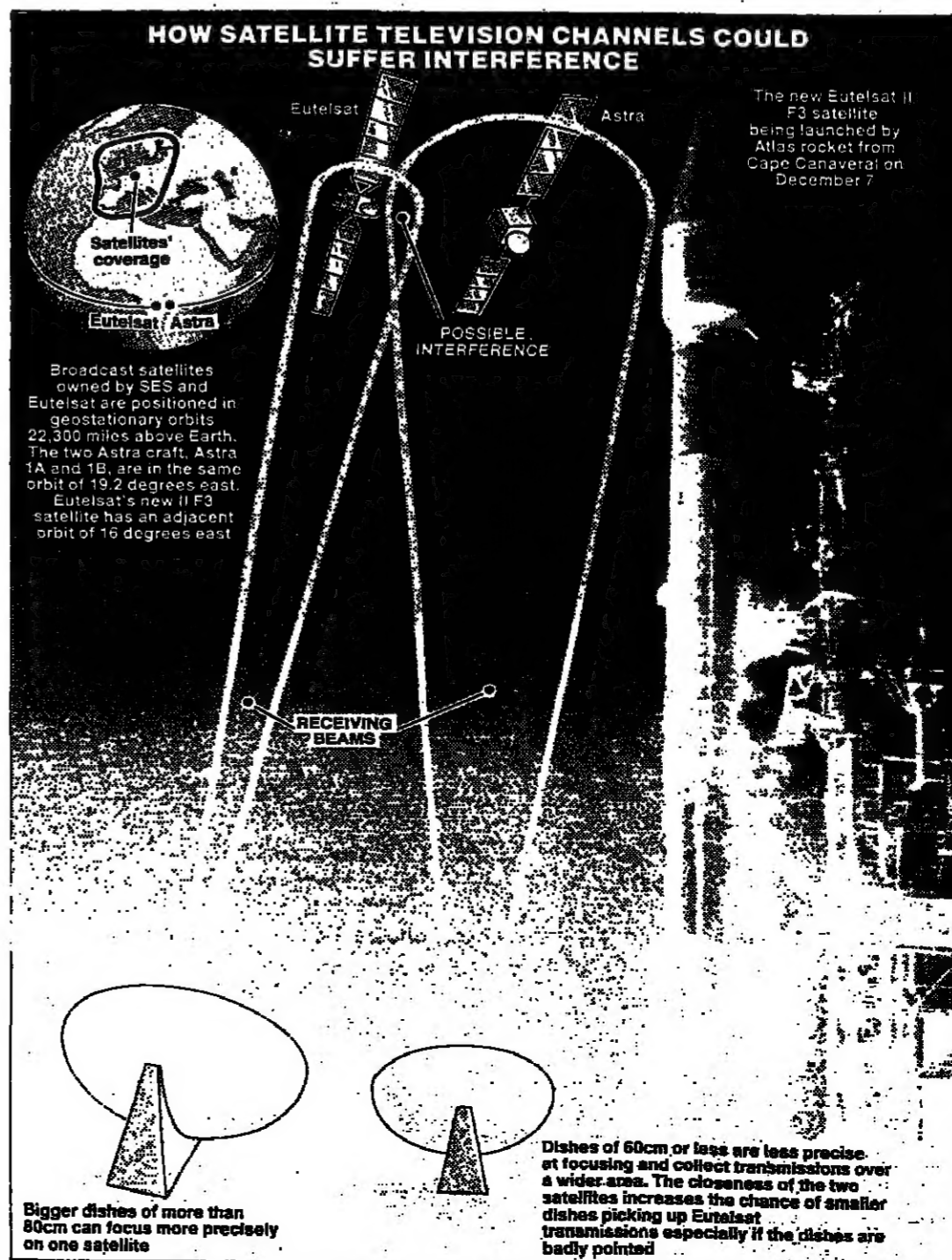
Eutelsat, SES says, should also adopt the policy of co-positioning. This strategy, which SES uses, puts several satellites in the same orbit making better use "of this increasingly scarce resource".

These proposals appear unlikely to cut any ice at Eutelsat. Vanessa O'Connor, Eutelsat's press officer, says the organisation has limited control over the telecommunications traffic carried on its craft. She says: "We lease capacity to our members. Once leased, it is up to them to decide how they use it. BT or Deutsche Bundespost can use it for telephony, data or television."

Astra and Eutelsat, however, share a concern over the way satellite services are being squeezed. There was interference between two Eutelsat satellites last year. Mr Haines says: "We could have problems with the new Telecom II satellite to the west of our orbit and with the German satellites to the east."

One solution would be to issue specially protected orbits spaced six degrees apart for television broadcast satellites. M Feltes, however, believes the real answer is to give the ITU some muscle. At present the ITU operates more like a gentlemen's club, accepting notifications of proposed orbits and pointing out that they might interfere with existing orbits.

M Feltes suggests that the ITU, rather like the Federal Communications Commission in the United States, should be given legal powers to issue orbital slots instead of just giving advice.



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Is Bush fit to be sick?

The American president's collapse has raised, once again, fears about his exercise regime, Jeremy Laurance reports

George Bush has been here before. The holder of one of the toughest jobs in the world knows the dangers of stress — and once collapsed as a young man as a direct result of the pressures he was under.

In his autobiography, *Looking Forward*, President Bush confessed that he was a chronic worrier in his thirties when he was trying to develop his oil business. On a business trip to London, it finally got the better of him. "I woke up one morning and started to get dressed," he wrote, "and then suddenly found myself on the hotel room floor." He crawled to the bedside phone and called for help. He was taken to hospital and found to have a bleeding peptic ulcer. The loss of blood had caused him to faint.

These days he handles stress better. Soon after becoming president he said he was no longer a chronic worrier. The ulcers had disappeared.

Stress affects people in different ways: what is stressful for one person is stimulating for another. Mr Bush came to the presidency well prepared, having held several high offices of state. He was not projected into the maelstrom of the White House from the serenity of a farm in Georgia, as Jimmy Carter was. It is safe to assume he would not have put himself up for the job if he had not felt able to cope with it.

A key element in President Bush's coping strategy is exercise. He jogs, goes fishing and plays golf. He was reportedly playing tennis in Japan on Tuesday and the game was extended to two sets at his request. He established the President's Council on Fitness and is keen to set an example. He is the most noticeably active of all world leaders — and the most noticeably ill. Is there a link?

Last May, he collapsed while out jogging near Camp David. The week before, he had launched the Great American Work-out and had taken part in weightlifting, basketball and soccer at the White House.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, the chairman of the President's Council on Fitness. It seems likely that in his keenness to set the nation an example he was doing more exercise than even he was used to.

But later it emerged that his problem was caused by a malfunctioning thyroid gland which had affected his heart (see Medical Briefing below). The exercise had revealed the problem, not caused it.

After the May episode, President Bush's doctors made no move to cut down on his physical activities. British physicians agreed that his exercise regime almost certainly does him good. "Sport helps physically and it can also help you relax by requiring you to concentrate on something totally different — cancelling the stress you have in your occupation," says Karol Sikora, a profes-

'We may see him out jogging again in a day or two, but I think that would be foolish'

sor of clinical oncology at Hammersmith hospital and an expert on the links between stress and cancer.

But according to Desmond Kelly, the medical director of the Frimley Hospital, Roehampton, and UK president of the International Stress Management Association, exercise is not universally effective in relieving stress. "People who exercise produce endorphins in the brain which are 'good mood' hormones. Some people, such as athletes, use this to produce a 'creative high' which helps them work well. But others who exercise simply feel ill."

The test, Dr Kelly says, is whether people played games at school. "If they did, exercise usually makes them feel better but if they tried everything to get out of games at school, it is not likely to help their stress levels now."

Emotional pressures are more likely to be at the root of the president's problems. From taking his country into war against Iraq last year, when his popularity soared, he had to switch to the domestic battlefield in which America's economy plunged into

recession. His rating with the American public has plummeted.

"George Bush has simply blown a fuse," says Cary Cooper, an expert on occupational stress at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. "It isn't just a case of too many long hours and too much travel, although for a man of 67 that alone is exhausting. Psychologically George Bush is having a very strange time. Less than a year ago he was a national hero for his conduct of the Gulf war. He is suffering what I would call the Margaret Thatcher effect — going from extreme popularity to extreme unpopularity in a short period of time. He probably thinks people are turning on him. He would see that as unfair and difficult to understand."

The way world leaders handle themselves on overseas trips adds unnecessarily to the stress of the job, according to Professor Malcolm Harrington, the director of the Institute of Occupational Health at Birmingham University. "It is extraordinarily difficult to stop politicians coming down the steps of a plane, shaking hands and going straight to meetings. They really should plan it better than that. They are not super-human."

Professor Sikora believes world leaders should be subject to regular monitoring of their health — and a mandatory retirement age. "If you can't practise medicine at 67 how can you be president of the United States? Pilots are required to have compulsory heart tests and are likely to have to undergo brain scanning soon, he says, but for politicians there is no such system. "Yet politics is a far more stressful activity than flying."

What should Mr Bush do now? According to Professor Cooper politicians tend to overreact to adversity. "He may try to prove quickly that he is really in good shape. We may see him out jogging again in a day or two but I think that would be foolish. He needs to rest, and after all he has quite a lot of political laurels to rest on. He won't give up the presidency, nor should he. The best approach is to manage his way out of his predicament, to bring his stress under control."

Additional reporting by Thomson Press



He's fine, really: after President Bush's illness last year he wore this jokey T-shirt for a game of horseshoes at the White House

REST, PRIME MINISTER — HOW EUROPE'S LEADERS COPE WITH THE PRESSURE

John Major, aged 48, suffered from exhaustion during the Gulf War last year. At the time, Norma Major said: "He is obviously tired and not getting enough sleep." A cricket fan, Mr Major's active participation in the sport was ended by a motor accident in the 1960s. He now attends as many Test matches as possible and would like to spend his retirement following the English cricket team round Australia and the West Indies.

Lech Walesa, aged 48, the president of Poland, takes ten-minute "power naps" during the day, and sometimes dozes while standing, a habit he learnt when he was working as an electrician. He needs only five hours sleep a night, practises yoga, and makes occasional visits to a German spa. He relaxes at rock clubs and bars in the evening.

Giulio Andreotti, aged 72, the prime minister of Italy, claims that "Power wears only those who do not have it". He wakes at 4.30am and only needs four hours sleep, supplemented by a 15-minute siesta.

Felipe Gonzalez, aged 49, the Spanish prime minister, unwinds by walking in his garden of Japanese bonsai trees. He drinks whisky and smokes Havana cigars late into the night. He needs six hours' sleep — plus a siesta — and spends three weeks of the year on holiday. Francois Mitterand, the president of France, celebrated his 75th

birthday last October. Apparently in good health, he plays golf twice a week and spends many weekends at his house in the country. He has seven hours sleep a night and enjoys long lunches.

At 6ft 5 and 18 stone, 61-year-old Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor of Germany, prompted one biographer to describe his body as "one of harmonious obesity".

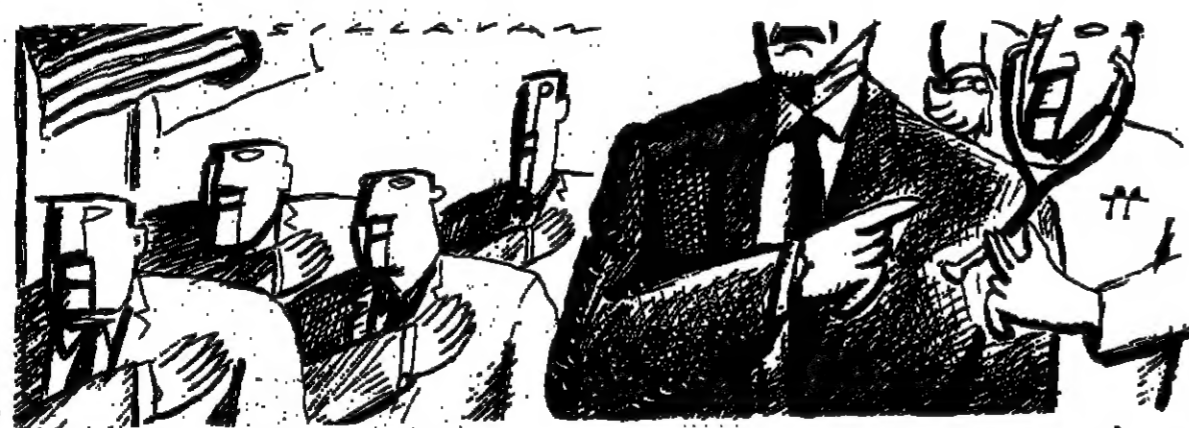
He is not a heavy drinker, but is said to like large quantities of traditional German food. He holidays each summer at his lakeside villa in Austria, where he tries to shed weight by eating only rolls and water for two weeks. Despite his size, he is not known to have any serious health problems.

Ruud Lubbers, aged 42, the prime minister of The Netherlands, works late every night and rises at 5.00am. His wife has publicly complained that he is a workaholic, and she does not see enough of him.

Another man dedicated to the job is Wilfried Martens, aged 55, the Belgian prime minister, who regularly works 14 hours days, despite undergoing a heart bypass operation in 1984.

ALICE THOMSON

Reasons to be careful



Unlike Winston Churchill and most, but not all, British post-war prime ministers, Margaret Thatcher did not routinely travel with a doctor. But the president of the United States has always done so. So there's nothing unusual in George Bush being accompanied by White House doctors at the state banquet at which he collapsed yesterday.

The doctors' worst fears must have been realised when their patient, who had been complaining of feeling vaguely unwell before dinner, collapsed during the meal, and vomited. The immediate explanation for his collapse was that he had eaten some contaminated food, or was suffering from the first signs of flu and had thereby had a sudden lowering of the blood pressure and a fainting attack. This would not have been questioned if Mr Bush was very much younger and had not recently suffered from atrial fibrillation due, apparently, to thyrotoxicosis — an overactive thyroid which produces too much of the hormone thyroxine, which over-stimulates the heart.

But, as it is, the doctors will now have to work through the differential diagnosis carefully, and the president, if he is wise, will submit to further examinations without question.

Atrial fibrillation is an irregular heart rhythm in which the atria, the collecting chambers of the heart, beat at a different rate to the ventricles, the stronger, pumping chambers.

If the ventricular rate is reasonably slow the patient may not suffer inconvenience, but if the heart rate is too fast or chaotic the patient may become breathless, dizzy, and even faint.

The president's medical advisers have assured the world that both the thyrotoxicosis and its attendant fibrillation are problems of the past, but it is not certain whether they mean by this that the heart-rate is now slowed so that, although irregular, the pumping action is efficient, or whether they mean that the rhythm is now completely normal.



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

Either way, during the considerable time that the president was fibrillating uncontrollably, the irregular action of the heart will have caused eddies and currents in its chambers which may have encouraged the formation of a thrombus, a large clot. Thereafter, at any moment, part of this clot, an embolism, may break off and, if the patient is unlucky, lodge in one of the arteries of the neck or brain, thereby causing a stroke.

If the embolism passes on quickly, so that no residual damage is done, and all symptoms have gone within 24 hours, the incident — in fact, a minor stroke — is described as a transient ischaemic attack.

Several studies have shown that embolic problems are particularly common in cases where fibrillation has been due to thyrotoxicosis. In a transient ischaemic attack, dizziness, nausea and vomiting are not unusual. Transient ischaemic attacks are liable, sooner or later, to lead to a major stroke.

Although President Bush's fibrillation was attributed to his mild degree of thyrotoxicosis, there are many other possible causes of this condition. Perhaps the most common in a man of his age is coronary arterial disease, which can be responsible for it even in the absence of angina.

Acute coronary insufficiency is not always painful: one in five patients who have had an acute myocardial infarction — a "coronary" — suffer no pain. However, nausea, vomiting and fainting are commonly associated with a coronary, and can occur in the

absence of pain. All too often one sees a patient who has been treating his "indigestion" with antacids grumbling about the nature of his supper, whereas he would have been better employed summoning his cardiologist.

President Bush's collapse will probably never be fully explained, but he would be well-advised in future to take his daily aspirin (known to be very effective in reducing the number of transient ischaemic attacks), to reduce the stress he submits himself to, to take longer to adapt to new countries before undertaking public engagements, and to modify his exercise schedule so that although he should continue to take brisk exercise he should abandon strenuous physical activity.

The president was treated with Tigan, a preparation — unavailable in this country — used to alleviate nausea and vomiting. If the collapse was due to food poisoning it would be expected that diarrhoea would also have occurred, as all travellers know, it is usually the more prominent and trying symptom.

However, whether the gastroenteritis presents initially as diarrhoea or vomiting there is normally time for the patient to reach the lavatory; the remarkable feature of this episode was that the vomiting seemed to have been very sudden, without warning, and was associated with immediate collapse. Afterwards, the president claimed that he felt quite well, although this may have been an opinion which owed more to his innate east coast politeness than a careful medical appreciation of the medical situation.

The likelihood must be that the president suffered a fainting attack, possibly related to an infection from contaminated food, but it would be a very brave doctor who categorically denied any other possibility, and no one would consider his aides unduly cautious or pessimistic if in future they said that they would not care to be driven by him along the motorway.

"I used to wander around town, looking at other babies and thinking 'why me?'"

Two years ago Mary Turner was told her daughter, Ruth, had cerebral palsy. It had been a difficult birth and the doctors suspected that something might be wrong.

Bringing up a child with cerebral palsy, like Ruth, is not easy, but with the right kind of help many parents find it has its special rewards.

In its 40th Anniversary year, 1992, The Spastics Society is launching an exciting project — Partnership Peto — to help children like Ruth.

Partnership Peto helps to bring Conductive Education to Britain. This is a form of help which enables children and adults with cerebral palsy to be more independent. Until now parents had to face the trauma and expense of travel to the world famous Peto Institute in Hungary to find out whether Conductive Education could benefit their child.

The new Peto Centre, to open in London, is a partnership staffed by Hungarian professionals and managed by The Spastics Society. The Centre will offer Conductive Education assessments identical to those already



available in Hungary. Assessment is just the start. We are establishing a range of follow-up programmes. Summer Schools and outreach services for pre-school children and their parents. We need £2.9 million to put our plans into action and we need your support now. What happens next depends on you. What can you do? — Join our partnership.

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لکھنؤ میں ایڈیٹ

Genius of immoral yearnings

Fernanda Eberstadt lauds Nabokov, whose change of exile from Paris to America turned him from a local hero into the scandalous author of *Lolita*

In May 1940, when this second and final volume of Brian Boyd's biography opens, Vladimir Nabokov, a refugee from Nazi-occupied France, was sailing past the Statue of Liberty into New York harbour. The 41-year-old Russian, arriving in the New World with one hundred dollars and a wife and child, was no ordinary greenhorn. It was his second voyage into exile: in 1919, at the age of 20, he had left Russia, under Bolshevik gunfire, with his father, a liberal statesman who had been active in opposing both Tsarism and Leninism. Three years later Nabokov Sr. was murdered in a Berlin lecture hall shielding a fellow politician from a Russian fascist's bullet.

In his subsequent two decades in Berlin, and briefly, Paris, the young Nabokov, writing under the pseudonym of V. Sirin, had gained a reputation through such brilliant high modernist works as *The Defence* and *The Gift* as the great Russian novelist of the early 20th century. (This is not as hard a contest as it sounds.)

Nabokov was a local superstar when he arrived in America, a country which had never heard of him and which neglected to give Russian exiles from communism the same attentive welcome bestowed on German exiles from Nazism. It is tribute to his sublimely sunny self-confidence, his optimism and high spirits, that Nabokov made of these initially forbidding circumstances — his only job offer was as a delivery boy — an amusing adventure. It is also tribute to a tenacious sense of literary vocation. The man who, in preparation for his American future, composed his first English language novel a full two years before he left Europe, was from the outset enchanted by this brash baby-doll of a new-foundland.

Steering clear of émigré society, he set about humorously becoming an American. The psychic cost of this transplant — imagine Henry James, after completing *A Portrait of a Lady*, embarking on a new career in French — is glimpsed only in rare asides. "The *déménagement* from my palatial Russian to the narrow quarters of my English," Brian Boyd quotes Nabokov from an unpublished note, "was like moving from one darkened house to another on a starless night during a strike of candlemakers and torchbearers."

He continued at odd intervals, however, to write Russian verse and dreamed to the end of binging on one last Russian novel. The reward

for this relinquishment of mother-tongue was an English idiom miraculously intricate and capacious, which yielded such masterworks as *Pale Fire*, *Invitation to a Beheading*, and that gorgeous, revolting Great American Novel *Lolita*.

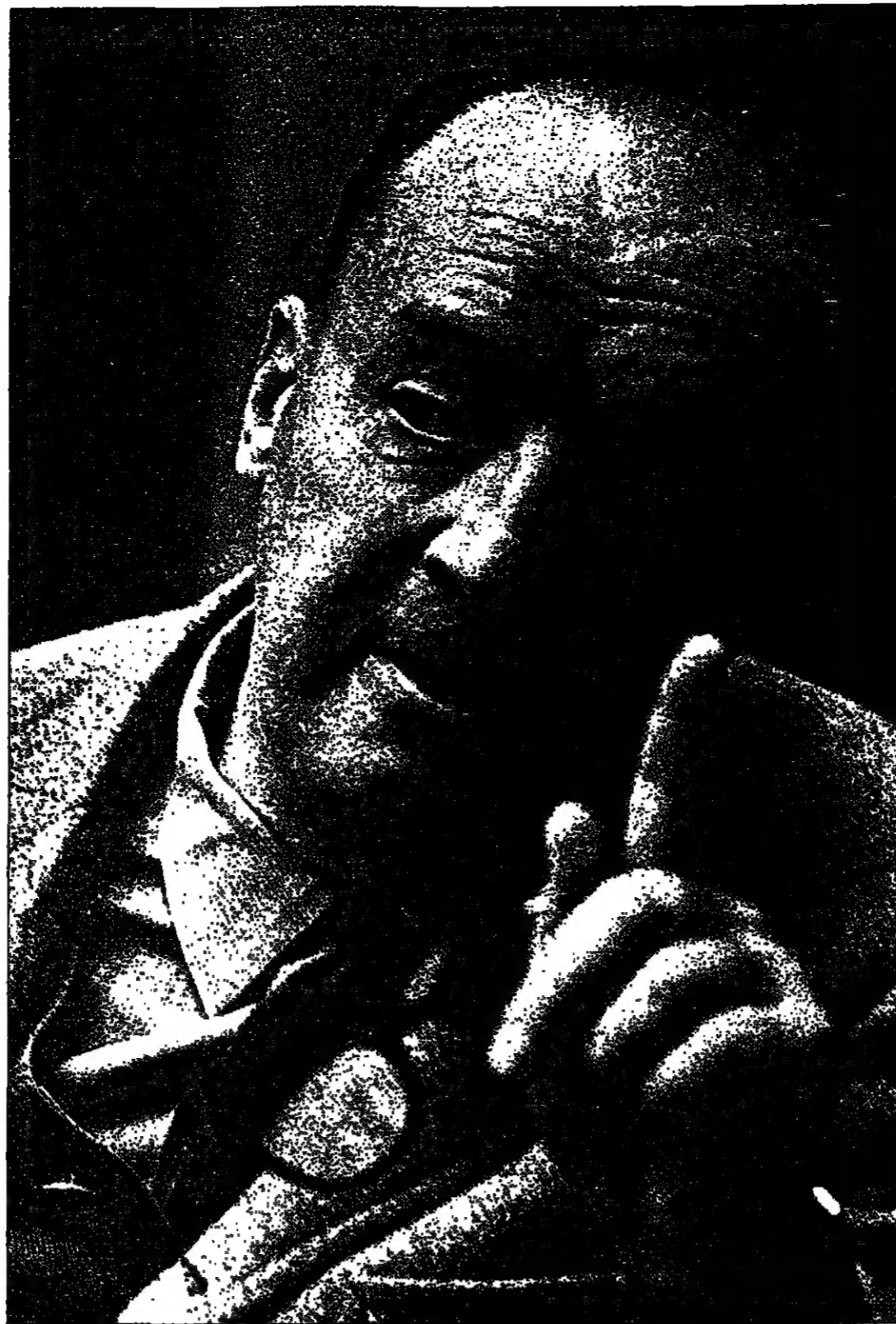
Brian Boyd's biography is an excellent guide and companion to Nabokov's work. The previous volume, published in 1990, dealt with the juicy material of Nabokov's liberal-aristocratic Russian childhood, his tribulations in Nazi Berlin, his courtship of his future wife and lifelong passion, Vera Slonim. *The American Years* works bawdy ground. Although this period (1940-1977) produced most of Nabokov's Greatest Hits, his outward life gives the biographer little to write home about.

Aside from a rapturous, prickly friendship (and well-publicised falling-out) with Edmund Wilson — chronicled in their published correspondence — Nabokov did not travel in fascinating circles or take part in the large culture of his time. On his one trip to Hollywood, Nabokov innocently asked John Wayne what he did.

He was a full-time academic, teaching literature at various American colleges, while pursuing a distinguished side-career as a lepidopterist. His external life was thus a compilation of job applications, course work, lectures, rented digs in numerous college towns, critical editions of Pushkin and Gogol, summers hunting butterflies in the Rockies, New Mexico, Utah — cross-country trips through the tacky, fly-by-night motel-life of the American heartland which provided the ground for *Lolita* — and, as he grew more successful, contract negotiations, movie deals, translations. When *Lolita* made Nabokov a rich man at the age of 60, he quit teaching and retired to a hotel in Montreux, where he spent his last 18 years in near-seclusion, publishing nearly a book a year.

Nabokov's intense sense of privacy makes the biographer's task more difficult. Though sociable, Nabokov was the most domestic of husbands and fathers, and his 52-year marriage to the stern beauty who acted as his secretary, editor, agent, and teaching assistant, was of an intensely symbiotic communal life that excluded all but their son.

As he grew older and more famous, moreover, the novelist exercised ever more stringent control over a life that early on had been tragically marred by the bumbly



Nabokov died in seclusion at Montreux, but his later novels reflect the ebullience of America

VLADIMIR NABOKOV
The American Years
by Brian Boyd
Chatto & Windus, £25

of fate: interviews were required to submit their questions in advance, and Nabokov would then read aloud his typewritten answers. At his death, he stipulated that his personal papers — including a novel and memoir — should not be published for 50 years after the deaths of his wife and son. (Boyd seems in part to have charmed his way around this ban.)

Boyd's portrait of Nabokov, seen through letters, journals, reminiscences of friends and colleagues, students, relatives, is of a man chivalrous, attentive, determined to have fun and to put people at their ease, antic in his high spirits. Visitors report a king of Buster Keaton clownishness — Nabokov miming the loss of a train ticket or, at the age of 75, pretending to sit down on top of a laden tea-tray.

Sturdier virtues are also revealed: so all-pervasive was the Nabokov habit of solicitude that when the non-cat who lived in an apartment they were renting was taken ill, the couple regularly visited the animal

in hospital. Underneath his playfulness, moreover, Boyd confirms, Nabokov was an intensely moral man, unremitting in his defence of individualism and democracy in all its squalling messiness, and allergic to cant, coercive ideologies, collectivism, even "group activity, that communal bath where the hairy and the slippery mix in the multiplication of mediocrity".

The curious fact which Boyd confronts, however, is that this open-spirited, generous humanist who worshipped Shakespeare, Pushkin and Tolstoy, himself created a fictional world that for all its wit and verbal brilliance, often feels airless, show-off, precious, and which in the last novels becomes cloyingly narcissistic. The same is true for the criticism, in which

Nabokov calls Virgil "insipid", Goethe "trivial", Stendhal "paltry", Dostoevsky "much overrated", Henry James "a complete fake", and *War and Peace* "a very childish piece of writing".

This contradiction Boyd works hard to resolve. He points to hidden clues, acrostics, subtexts, which show that Nabokov in each novel was registering secret disapproval of the perversities in which his work appears to revel. Of Nabokov's mammoth translation of *Eugene Onegin*, almost universally deplored for its crabbed archaisms and wilful violations of syntax, Boyd similarly argues that Nabokov made it purposely repellent in order to drive the reader to master Pushkin in the original.

While Boyd may run to extremes in trying to iron out the kinks in Nabokov's character, his devotion to his subject is endearing. And for all its occasional excesses of partiality, *The American Years* brings a thorough, informative finale to an illuminating biography.

Verses return from oblivion

Jim McCue

NEW OXFORD BOOK
OF 17th-CENTURY VERSE
Alistair Fowler
OUP, £25

Revision: seeing again. For the revised series of Oxford Books of Verse, which will influence the taste of a generation, OUP commissioned a fresh reading of the huge corpus of our poetry. The most recent results are Alistair Fowler's *New Oxford Book of 17th-Century Verse* (published today) and Emrys Jones's 16th-century volume (published last year). Nearly five centuries and more than 800 poets are now represented, yet even at 3,500 pages, these volumes are scraping the surface, not the barrel.

As well as adjusting reputations up and down — Philip Larkin's *20th-Century Verse* notoriously found no place for Ezra Pound — these anthologies have brought to light many scarcely known poems and poets. Emrys Jones includes one poem apparently never before printed, and some neglected tender lines by Thomas Bastard about a child learning to speak: "the soft air the softer roof doth kiss / With a sweet dying and a pretty miss". Christopher Ricks's *Victorian Verse* revises Shirley Brooks's "Poem by a Perfectly Furious Academician":

I takes and pains,
Hears no complaints,
And sells before I'm dry,
Till savage Ruskin
He sticks his fork in,
Then nobody will buy.

The earliest tradition was courtly and semi-official. Henry VIII, Elizabeth and James I all have poems in these volumes. In 1599, Samuel Daniel hoped this national literature would rival that of the ancients.

O blessed letters, that combine in one
All ages past, and make one live with all

By you we do confer with who are gone
And the dead living unto council call
By you th' unborn shall have communion
Of what we feel and what doth us befall

He thought the genius of the language ordained for the production of great works, and in general the old Oxford anthologies agreed. But alongside that canonical history, the modern editors value diversity and introduce unrequired writing, voices from the anonymous mass. There are versified prayers and wills, doggerel notes on husbandry, dialect poems, epigrams and the ebullient dementia of Christopher Smart.

Without looking below the first rank, Fowler might have filled all his 800 pages with the 17th century's unmatched lyrical exploration of love in all its forms, running from Fulke Greville and Drayton (overlapping here with Jones) to Traherne and Rochester. But he also admits "some 'sub-literary' verse, and some very minor poets", for "if literature is the nation's memory, forgotten verse may contain things we need to know". One thing we especially need to know is what women's verse was like, and Fowler has practised "positive discrimination".

As well as including women in his *New Oxford Book of 17th-Century Verse*, Roger Lonsdale went further, producing a full-scale anthology of *17th-Century Women Poets*. Though not included there, the anonymous anguish of "Epitaph on a Child Killed by Procured Abortion" is surely a mother's

Soben the pangs that still revenge thy doom:

Nor, from the dark abyss of nature's womb,
Where back I cast thee, let reviving time
Call up past scenes to aggravate my crime.

With hundreds of ephemeral poems called back from oblivion to set beside the Augustan classics, Lonsdale's 18th century is radically political, particularly as it draws to its troubled close. Cowper, James Grainger, and others denounce slavery; William Shephard laments imperialistism; Mary Acok and James Bisset decry child labour.

Not that all the verse Lonsdale prints is good. Who can have patience with stuff like this: "In yon deep bed of whispering reeds / His airy harp shall now be laid". There is too much mock-heroic Miltonic grandeur. Thus sports are routinely aggrandised. Bowls: "A large smooth plain extends its verdant brow"; golf: "th' exulting orb ascends"; cricket: "And see where busy counties strive for fame".

A her century too much lulled by rhyming couplets, Victorian poets weighed up their words as well as their syllables. Feelings were understated and compressed into sonnets and tight stanzas (Housman, Hardy) to make the reader attend to every nuance. Ralph Hodgson could imply years of misunderstanding in the apparently neutral title "Silver Wedding". Lord de Tabley could write 40 delicate and precise lines about a spider. Out of such restraints burst Hopkins.

Even in the best filled ground, these editors have found neglected furrows, such as the importance of poems of the late 17th century. Out of Horace, perhaps, but very English is a long series of poems of leisure contentment: Lord Vaux's praise of thinking (1576), Edward Dyer's "In Praise of a Contented Mind" ("My mind to me a kingdom is..."), 1588, Henry Wotton's "The Character of a Happy Life" (1651) and Robert Southwell's "Content and Rich" (1595): "My wishes are but few, / All easy to fulfil; / I make the limits of my power / The bonds upon my will". Mildmay Fane, in 1648, predicated his serenity upon being at one with nature:

... observe by reason
why every plant obeys its season:
How the sap rises, and the fall,
Wherein they shake off leaves and all,
Which whilst my contemplation sees
I am taught thankfulness from trees.

Unmistakably, this green wisdom is a pre-echo of Marvell's "Upon Appleton House" — the most perfect of all long poems, though sadly not printed entire by Fowler.

Similarly, Lonsdale prints two poems addressed to Coleridge and two on Tintern Abbey. But because the Romantics fall between the 18th century and the Victorians, they are to have a volume to themselves. And after that? Well, despite a new jacket recently, Helen Gardner's 1972 *New Oxford Book of English Verse* is beginning to look rather dated.

'Not tonight Josephine,
I'm reading the new Sharpe'

BERNARD CORNWELL

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Matriarch of the Tudor dynasty

We, Margaret: with these firm words a great lady lays down the rules for a new institution. They may have a familiar ring. But the words were in fact originally written in Latin ("Nos, Margareta"), the great lady in question was Margaret Beaufort, who died in 1509, and the institution in question was Christ's College, Cambridge, not the Thatcher Foundation. Nevertheless, hitherto remarkable women acting successfully in a man's world have tended to have certain qualities in common, whether in the 20th century or the late medieval period of Margaret Beaufort. And these are not the qualities of modesty and submissiveness which history has traditionally praised in the female sex. Hagiography of such women misses the real point by underplaying the strength and even ruthlessness needed to survive.

The King's Mother, a new life of Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby, by Michael K. Jones and Malcolm G. Underwood, is certainly no hagiography. On the contrary, copious archival material is here used to great effect to compose a complex portrait, quite unlike the traditional one-dimensional picture of a pious, nun-like benefactress. It is true that Lady Margaret was responsible for many foundations and she was pious (although she enjoyed "merry tales" — both Chaucer and Boccaccio were in her library). At the same time this Lady Margaret is worldly, pragmatic not to say devious, and money-loving: £15,000 of movable wealth was available at her death, and it is possible that the notorious miserliness of her son Henry VII was derived from her. She is also courageous, and determined to preserve the interests of her

family and properties by her own efforts above the mire of civil war in 15th century England. Certainly the tranquil face of her tomb effigy in Westminster Abbey gives little indication of the challenges which she faced throughout her life — and survived.

The early years of Margaret Beaufort, born in 1444, in the reign of Henry VI (son of another powerful woman, Margaret of Anjou) were dominated by two things. First, she was a great heiress, the only child of a father who died shortly after she was born: this meant that her marriage-

ability was deemed to start more or less in infancy. Secondly, she had royal blood, being descended from John of Gaunt; but it was tainted royal blood since her grandfather, John Beaufort, had been born "in double adultery". That is, both his parents, John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford, had been married to other people at the time of his birth: although he was later made legitimate and they did marry. Thus the Beaufort family's place in the royal succession was at once important and dubious.

Lady Margaret's first marriage, which took place when she was six and her bridegroom seven, was subsequently annulled. When she was ten she was married to Edmund Tudor; she became pregnant at the age of 12. Then Edmund Tudor died of plague, leaving her to give

birth to a son as a widow of 13. Unfortunately, Lady Margaret was not yet physically full grown, and the result of this birth — cynically encouraged in order to produce a male heir to her possessions — was to "spoil" her in the horrid contemporary phrase applied to such unlucky heiresses. That is, she was wrecked gynaecologically and never able to give birth again. By the time she was 15, Lady Margaret was on her third (second official) husband, Henry Stafford. That was a longer-lasting union although of course childless: after Stafford died in 1471, Lady Margaret married, for reasons of state, Thomas Stanley, Lord Derby.

The boy Henry Tudor, who would live to win the English crown at Bosworth Field, and ascend the throne as Henry VII, was his mother's lifelong passion. She was more the age of a sister than a mother, and given the tenor of her correspondence ("my sweet King", "my dearest King" and so forth), one has the impression of something love-like about the relationship.

There is also something grimly possessive about Lady Margaret's exercise of her role of mother-in-law to Elizabeth of York. She occupied chambers linked to those of her son both at Woodstock and the Tower of London, and one Ambassador reported Lady Margaret as completely dominating the gentler younger woman. When Queen Elizabeth died in childbirth in 1503, Lady Margaret enjoyed 36 years as effective Queen Mother in all but name. (How convenient that the signature Margaret R, which she adopted, might stand for Margaret Richmond — her first husband's title — or Margaret Regina according to taste.)



Lady Margaret Beaufort's tomb in Westminster Abbey

One thing this matriarch never tried to do, however, was to exercise royal power directly, even though her son's genealogical claim came through her and, by modern rules, she would have preceded him on the throne. Jones and Underwood quite rightly make short work of the sentimental Victorian suggestion that Lady Margaret "sacrificed" her own claim to the throne through love of her son.

On the contrary, Lady Margaret was a realist who understood that direct female rule was associated with civil war (as in the case of Stephen and Matilda in the 12th century) and had observed for herself the hostility aroused by the machinations of Margaret of Anjou. She preferred to fight like a demon for her son's interests (even when they conflicted with those of her third husband Lord Derby) rather than

enact her own. In this sense she is very much a creature of her age, to whom the reign of her great-granddaughter Queen Elizabeth I would have seemed not so much glorious as narrative. The authors' only unhappy decision is to start the book with a historiographical survey of Lady Margaret's fortunes at the hands of past biographers. This chapter, however intriguing, makes an uneasy introduction to a character we ourselves have not yet met, as it were, and should surely have formed the epilogue.

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

The gang's all here, but who cares?

Billy Bathgate.
Merci La Vie.
Liebestraum.
The Bridge.
Hello, Hemingway.
and Year of the Gun
are reviewed by
Geoff Brown

Our they come: the gents in dark suits, the bullets, the corpses and surly words. Thirties' gangsters are back in town, guns blazing. *Billy Bathgate* (15, Odeon Leicester Square) presents Dutch Schultz, leading light of the New York underworld, incarnated by Dustin Hoffman with a growl of a voice and the face of a harried weasel. Violence flares without warning. A lying mouth is shot apart; an innocent head is bludgeoned; Bruce Willis — his feet in concrete — gets dumped off a tugboat (did I hear a cheer?).

Yet among Hollywood's new crop of gangster movies, Robert Benton's film — adapted from E.L. Doctorow's 1988 best-seller — still lacks a vital something. Neatly scripted by Tom Stoppard, it pads along from reel to reel, serious and intelligent. But as a visceral experience, *Bathgate* pales beside Scorsese's *GoodFellas*: you never feel this movie in the pit of your stomach. Visually, the film stammers with sleek photography from Nelson Almedina and all the correct period bric-a-brac, yet it cannot compare with the gleeful high style of the Coen Brothers' *Miller's Crossing*.

You might think that having Dustin Hoffman top of the cast would be enough for any film. Not so. He appears comparatively stiff, playing rather than inhabiting his role. His size is bothersome: everyone seems taller than Dutch Schultz, especially Billy Bathgate: the young Bronx kid, itching to realise the American Dream by joining Schultz's gang as a flunky and confidant in 1935. He chose the wrong year. Lawsuits, treachery and defections mount; Schultz's kingdom is crumbling.

To extract the best from Doctorow's story of great and misplaced expectations, we need to see Schultz, for some time at least, through Billy's star-struck eyes. But the perception that suits belongs to Schultz's girlfriend, Drew, an ordinary man, she tells Billy. Bathgate himself — lame innocence with a few streaks of guile — receives a nimble portrayal from Loren Dean, though the character is too much fortune's pawn to make a strong impression. Other players in this strangely muffled, disappointing film offer bright bits and pieces: Steven Hill, excellent as Schultz's weary right-hand man; Nicole Kidman, bewitching as Drew, the liberated moll ("I'm not his girl, he's my gangster").

"What period are we in?" When this is called a flashback? When even a film's characters seem confused, pity the poor audience. Bertrand



Ill-fated couple: Nicole Kidman ("bewitching" as Drew) and Loren Dean ("nimble" as Billy) in Robert Benton's *Billy Bathgate*, from the novel by E.L. Doctorow

Blier's *Merci La Vie* (18, Lumière and Camden Plaza) hurls at the spectator an avalanche of Gallic insolence. Two nubile girls time-hop through the 20th century, igniting fires in men and cars, entering films-within-the-film, visiting their parents on conception night, tangling with Aids and trains bound for Nazi death camps. This is the art-house equivalent of a Hollywood rollercoaster such as *Total Recall*, where sensation is all, and decorous values — logic, good taste, some ultimate meaning — get trampled in the rush to amaze.

At least Blier began with a clear aim. Almost 20 years ago, he made *Les Valseuses* — the anarchic tale of two rampaging males that pushed Gérard Depardieu (and Blier) into the limelight. "I wanted to see whether I was still capable of making such a daring film at the age of 50," *Merci La Vie* proves that he can, but not nearly so well. For all its narrative jolts and nose-thumbings at French life, this *jeu d'esprit* lacks the verve and cheek that kept — and still keeps — *Les Valseuses* spinning (the film is being revived next month).

For nostalgia's sake, Depardieu makes a cameo appearance, as an odious doctor who plans to make

his reputation by curing a clap epidemic that he himself spread. Other notables include Jean-Louis Trintignant (a lustful SS officer) and Michel Blanc (father to one of the girls). But they all dance attendance on Blier's blithe heroines, Charlotte Gainsbourg and

'As a visceral experience, Bathgate pales beside Scorsese's GoodFellas: you never feel this movie in the pit of your stomach'

Anouk Grinberg, who meet in the opening minutes — one pushing a seagull-laden supermarket trolley, one dumped from a car — and never let go through the whirlwind. There is no shortage of high spirits, cleverness, or eccentric fun: just listen to the crazy-quilt sound-

track (Philip Glass one minute, Dean Martin the next). Yet, not for the first time, Blier's outrageousness seems mechanical. Glossily shot, smoothly engineered, *Merci La Vie* is mineral-water anarchy: purified, bottled, mass-produced.

The week's most luscious film must be *Liebestraum* (18, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue, MGM Trocadero). The camera undertakes a long-abandoned American department store, a caution landmark due for demolition. Characters trip up over flashbacks and dreams; bodies lie strewn in love and death. Kim Novak (the hero's mother) lies in hospital, screaming. It rains a lot: doesn't it always in movies like this?

Mike Figgis is the man to praise or blame: the former bright spark of British experimental theatre, now at large in Hollywood, wrote, directed, and composed the ominous, moaning music. At first, praise is in order: grandiose images draw us into an intriguing plot juggling sexual jealousy, architectural values (to demolish or not to demolish), and the cyclical nature of past sins.

Disillusionment begins once the town's psychotic sheriff, a minor character, embarks on the longest

(and most pointless) urination in cinema history. With the plot fast crumbling, the dream-like atmosphere loses its charms, and Kevin Anderson's lead character (a subtle-chinned architectural expert) begins to bore unduly. Next time Figgis builds a dark, wild movie, he should spend more hours digging the foundations.

At least *Liebestraum* takes risks. *The Bridge* (12, Cannon Haymarket), the poor pretty thing, is frozen with timidity. This British costume drama sits on the screen like Little Miss Muffet, spinning the trite tale of a summer's dalliance between a stifled Victorian wife and an artist. He is Philip Wilson Steer, the English Impressionist whose *The Bridge* — a woman and man in icy contemplation, over an estuary — hangs in the Tate.

Maggie Hemingway's novel (the source for Syd McCarney's film) imagines the events behind the canvas. Transferred to celluloid they appear unremarkable. McCarney, up from the commercials field, provides some tasty summer hues, but less too many actors slip his grasp. Saskia Reeves twiddles a cream parrot and looks constipated; David O'Hara, her ad-

mirer dauber, acts as though stunned with a heavy implement. This is British cinema at its most exasperating.

Relief is at hand with the engaging *Hello, Hemingway* (ICA Cinema), a gentle, bitter-sweet Cuban tale which brings a gust of fresh air to the over-worked terrain of teenage problems. Lauria, 16, dreams of winning a scholarship to study in the United States; but her impoverished background and fractious home life drag her down. Hemingway — Lauria's famous neighbour — is in the background, along with Castro's upcoming revolution: the year is 1956. Director Fernando Perez, trained in documentaries, adopts a pleasantly unfussy style, and lets a wealth of social details seep through the personal drama. Laura de la Uz — alternately bubbly and cross-fallen — makes a charming, dynamic heroine.

How can a thriller so stacked with gunfire, chases, twists and red herrings as *Year of the Gun* (15, Cannon Haymarket) send one to sleep? A laborious script about the Italian Red Brigade helps; so does a miscast leading man (Andrew McCarthy). Only flickers of John Frankenheimer's old talent for staging action scenes are in evidence in this uncongenial project.

BRIEFING

Secret series

ROBERT Halmi, the Hungarian-born Hollywood producer who recently bought the rights to the sequel to *Gone With the Wind* for \$9 million (£4.8 million), has now announced a contract with the KGB for a film series based on their files. Halmi promises "a major, headline-grabbing series" with episodes including the U2 affair, the Cuban missile crisis and the Philby, Burgess and Maclean stories. The agreement also includes the book rights on the KGB files.

Larkin about

ALAN Bates makes a rare appearance on the London stage later this month in a one-off performance to raise money for Greenwich Theatre's forthcoming production of *Caesar and Cleopatra*. Bates and Patrick Garland will perform *Down Cemetery Road* — *The Landscape of Philip Larkin* at Greenwich on Sunday, January 19. An entertainment created by Garland, *Down Cemetery Road* is based on Larkin's poems, prose and personal writings and was first performed at the National Theatre when the poet was still alive. *Caesar and Cleopatra*, which stars Alec McCowen and Amanda Root, opens on January 30.

Punny but true

THE composer half of the writing team behind a new musical, *99 Haymarket Street*, which is opening at the Liverpool Playhouse Studio tomorrow, is the Merseyside musician, John Bryan. At least this time he is taking credit where credit is due. Bryan recently released his first album, *Carnival Day at Kirby*, but modestly preferred to do so under a pseudonym, the splendidly appropriate local choice being "Johann Skauss".

Last chance...

THE painting of Gerhard Richter, 60 this year, is amazingly varied. Not only has he evolved since the Sixties from photo-based portraits and aerial landscapes, through quasi-scientific colour charts to full-blooded paintings, but he also continues to produce, simultaneously, free-form abstracts reminiscent of late Monet and meticulously realistic pictures which recall soft-focus photographs. All his phases are included in the retrospective that closes at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313) on Sunday.

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CINEMA: HERITAGE

The man who introduced Stan Laurel to Ollie Hardy

Not many people stay around long enough for their own centenaries: but film producer Hal Roach — the man who made Harold Lloyd, Laurel and Hardy and *Our Gang* — is all ready to celebrate his 100th birthday on Tuesday. And he is expected to attend a retrospective tribute to him during the Berlin Film Festival next month.

Roach has seen and lived the entire history of Hollywood. He arrived there in 1912, the same year as the first film studios, and two years before Charlie Chaplin came. "We became good friends. We both lived in the Los Angeles Athletic Club. It was cheap. And we rode to the studios in his car."

Roach had seen a good deal of pioneering America even before Hollywood. At 17 he ran away from home in

David Robinson salutes Hal Roach, still working in Hollywood at 100

Elmira, New York — leaving behind also his given names of Harold Eugene — to prospect for gold in Alaska. When the anticipated riches did not materialise he became in succession mule-skinner, saloon gambler and haulage man.

Having drifted to Los Angeles, he rode well enough to be taken on by Universal, at 25 dollars a week, to act in cowboy pictures. There he met another young bit player, Harold Lloyd. When Roach came into a small inheritance they set up their own film company and studio, to make two-reel comedies with Lloyd

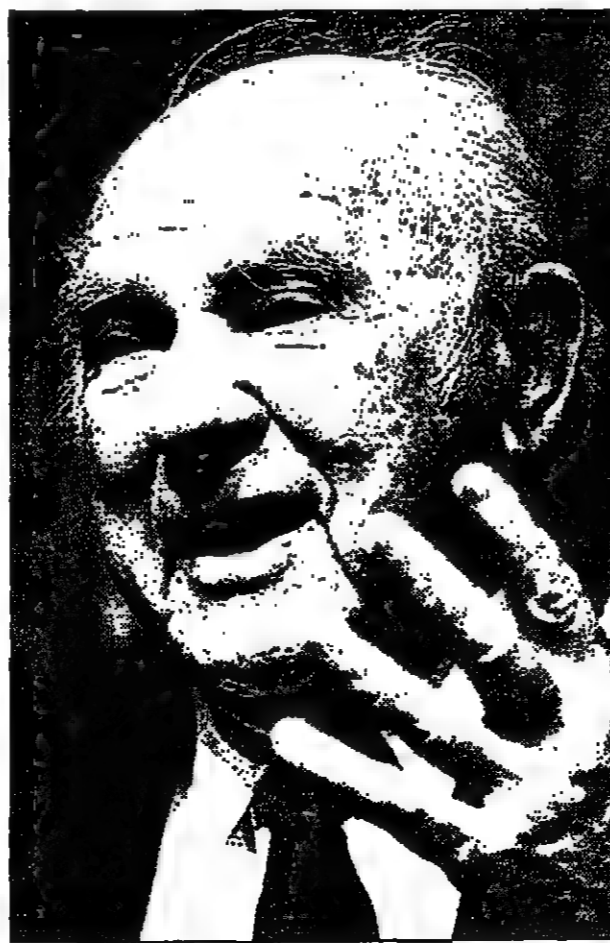
as the star. His first characters, "Willie Work" and "Lonesome Luke", imitated Chaplin; but with Roach's help Lloyd was soon to develop the distinctive character — the diffident young man in horn-rimmed glasses — which brought him fame as one of the great silent comics.

After parting with Lloyd, Roach had the inspiration to team two comedians who had been working solo for years. Laurel and Hardy exemplify the difference between Roach and his contemporary and rival Mack Sennett. Sennett's films tended to frenetic action and slapstick. Roach preferred a more restrained, realistic and ultimately more sophisticated style of character comedy. Stan and Ollie are recognisably human, sharing the foibles, feelings and anxieties of the audience as they battle with a world of towering houses, recalcitrant cars, malevolent neighbours and virago wives.

Roach's third great contribution to Hollywood comedy was the *Our Gang* series, which introduced several generations of colourful child players. Other Roach comedy stars over the years included Harry Langdon, Edgar Kennedy, Will Rogers and ZaSu Pitts, while several generations of Hollywood directors cut their teeth at his studios.

In 1926, reckoning that human stars were demanding excessive salaries, Roach hired a killer equine called Rex for a rather racist melodrama, *The Devil Horse*. He also tried all-animal casts for his Dippy Doo Dads series, but soon went back to human comedy.

Roach has always had the ability to move with the times. Recognising the inevitable



Hal Roach: arrived in Hollywood before most studios

demise of the two-reel comedy, he turned to feature production. He produced the sophisticated *Topper* series, with Cary Grant and Constance Bennett, and a prestigious adaptation of Steinbeck's *O of Mice and Men*, directed by Lewis Milestone. "It's only Laurel and Hardy being serious," he explained.

A grandiose film project, *One Million B.C.*, gave him a chance to help a fellow pioneer, D.W. Griffith — "one of the great geniuses of the business". Roach remembers visiting the monumental set of *Intolerance* in 1916, when Griffith was at the pinnacle of his career. By 1939 Griffith

had fallen on bad times, rejected by the industry. He vindicated Roach's decision to engage him as adviser by testing and casting a young unknown, Carole Landis.

Later Roach was a pioneer of television, establishing the Hal Roach Television Corporation in 1948. Today he still supervises his business interests, capitalising on his old productions and thinking up new schemes.

He is still full of ideas about comedy, and believes Benny Hill could be "the biggest comic in the world today if he was not too much below the belt. Below-the-belt comedy can't get the family audience. That's what I've always aimed for."

CINEMA: FINANCE

All we need is the money

Franc Roddam, founder of Union Pictures, talks to Simon Tait

As a man with a Midas-like reputation, Franc Roddam has reason to believe he could escape the malaise of righteous poverty affecting the British film industry, and a year ago founded Union Pictures, to show what could be done with a little enterprise, bravado and a little money. "Sixty per cent of the film market is American, you have to accept that," Roddam said at the time. "But there's no reason why we shouldn't play Hollywood at its own game."

Seed-funded by the Greater London Enterprise Board for £1.2 million, Union had a capital investment scheme built into it designed to accumulate a £50 million fund from City investors. But a year on, recession has tightened its grip. "We're still here, with seven feature scripts, 30 television pieces and a television drama ready to go, but the money never came," Roddam says now. "The immediate future for film-makers is with television, but we're only just coming out of the nightmare of franchises."

The BBC has co-produced a film with Union about the Falklands War, which begins shooting on location next month; and there is also a ten-part documentary series for the BBC about dogs and their roles in our lives. Apart from the BBC, negotiations are still under way on cinema scripts which include a thriller called *Trance* written by Roddam and Scott Roberts, and a dramatisation of Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*.

Roddam cut his teeth with the original "fly-on-the-wall" documentary, *The Family*, for the BBC in the 1970s, went on to make the film *Quadrophobia* with The Who, devised *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* for Channel 4, then

ment and industry have been hamstrung by complacency, Roddam believes. "This is a self-promoting society," he says. "Film-makers have to go where they can for finance, with scripts which have a realistic box office potential."

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Tradesman's entrée

Philip Howard on fads in royal marriages

By both her job and her engagement, Lady Helen Windsor has done for the profession of art dealer what her first cousin once removed, Princess Margaret, did for photography in the 1960s. Overnight she has made it appear highly respectable, a "regnable" occupation, into which royals are permitted to marry without causing scandal. They even get "a delightful letter" from the Queen, wishing the two young art dealers every happiness.

For art dealer (contemporary, not even Old Masters) to become the fashionable job for the Nineties is as surprising as for Frank Bruno to become a Regius Professor of Greek. Until now, art dealers have had a distinctly shady public image. In opinion polls measuring the relative prestige of occupations, they consistently score very low, just above Members of Parliament. The general impression of art dealer is of a flash and caddishly good looking man wearing a grand old school tie to which he is not entitled, extracting a seller's premium, a buyer's premium, and any other premiums going, attributing paintings with more poetry than scholarship, and speaking with the confident boom of an auctioneer.

The job description came into the English language between the wars. The first reference to art dealers found by the diligent searchers of *The Oxford English Dictionary* is in the novel, *White House* by Alexander Woolcott, published in 1934. It is unflattering: "The young art dealer was not precisely what would have been called pro-Ally." So soon after the war, you could not say anything ruder than that.

Men have made a living from buying and selling other men's paintings since the agents for the Arctic black figure painters of the 6th century BC. Where there's art, there's brass, and dealers who are more interested in brass than paint. But before the recent arrival of the art dealer, they were called connoisseurs, cognoscenti, dilettante and art lovers, with their factors and men of business. The pair who turned art dealing into a profession less than a century ago were Bernard Berenson and Joseph Duveen. The latter acquired the titles of knight, baronet, and eventually Baron Duveen, of Millbank. But neither of the rascals was the sort of man a royal could conceivably have married. Their lives were piratical and full of scams for separating punters from their money by practices so sharp that you could have shaved a porcupine with them.

Down the centuries the etiquette of royal marriages has changed. In the beginning, royals were pirates themselves, and their marriages were dynastic alliances to extract the maximum advantage of territory and power. When Edward IV bucked the trend by marrying a commoner and a widow who already had children, he brought the kingdom to the brink of civil war from English snobbery and jealousy.

When the supply of marriageable royals began to dry up, even among German princelings, in the 19th century, it became acceptable for a British royal to marry outside the magic circle. But he needed to be a member of the old aristocracy, with land, or a large marriage settlement, if she was a woman. Gradually the permitted boundaries extended to include the services, preferably the Royal Navy, or the Guards or a smart cavalry regiment, or because of the Queen Mother's connection, the Black Watch. Definitely not the Gunners or the RAF. It was his captivity in the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, rather than his horsey preoccupations, which made captain Mark Phillips an acceptable mate for Princess Anne.

Trade was beyond the pale for royal marriages until Lady Helen's aunt, Princess Alexandra, married the Hon Angus Ogilvy, who collects directorships as other men collect parking tickets. But in addition to his business interests, Ogilvy passed the test of belonging to the old landed aristocracy with flying pipe banners. It has always been easier for male royals to marry "down" than for females. King Cophetua started it by marrying a beggar-maid Penelope, whom Shakespeare, with typical carelessness, mis-named Zenophone. The Prince of Wales married a kindergarten teacher; his brother, the Duke of York, married a publisher who was not even a Sloane but a Soanly ("S" only ten minutes across the river to Sloane Square). Certain occupations are still beyond the pale, but if art dealers are now OK and yash, the latest thing, can insurance sales reps and garage owners and journalists be far behind?

Peter Stothard in Washington counts the cost of the president's fainting fit in an election year

Is Bush a lame duck?

President Bush decided before Christmas that his Far-Eastern trip would have its main political impact at home, and so it has proved. Americans awoke yesterday to see — for the second time in nine months — their president collapsed among secret servicemen and doctors.

A day which was supposed to parade Mr Bush standing strong in defence of jobs and free trade ended by showing him on his back. In the White House, where Mr Bush's main advisers have remained this week planning his re-election strategy, the impact was immediate. Those gifted with instant hindsight (always a large group among political professionals) suggested that if Mr Bush had felt so unwell before the banquet as seemed to be the case, he should not have gone. Far better, they argued, to offend the Japanese than provide fodder for more important enemies.

For the new chief of staff, Samuel Skinner, however, it was not his decision to make. The damage had been done: the presidential face, as grey and crumpled as the presidential jacket, had been seen by millions. In Tokyo, Mr Bush was in the hands of his doctors. In Washington, the first test of Mr Skinner's crisis-management skills, honed mostly until now in the smoky backrooms of Chicago, was to make sure the political virus did not spread.

Vice-President Dan Quayle was contacted by telephone. But he did not come directly to the west wing. The desired image was "business as usual", and Mr Skinner's first job was to make sure it looked that way. While reporters gathered in ever greater numbers in the White House press room, Mr Skinner put on his calmest face.

Meanwhile, the political implications were up for analysis. All campaign managers have had to become accustomed to the use and abuse of medicine. Pictures of a mildly sick President Carter became a metaphor for the failings of his administration, as did his encounter on a boat trip with the so-called "killer rabbit". Both incidents were trivial in themselves, but both reinforced a sense that something was wrong at the top. Presidential illness can also be used to highlight fears about a vice-presidential succession. Adlai Stevenson tried that tactic after President Eisenhower's heart-attack in 1956, hoping the spectre of Richard Nixon might help his cause. It did not — but the idea did not die. Last May, after Mr Bush suffered his famous aerial fibrillation while jogging with security staff, there was a spate of speculation about the fitness of Mr Quayle to succeed him. Since then Mr Quayle's reputation has risen, and the president's has fallen but, with the election looming nearer now, it is critical for the Republicans that the vice-pres-

ident handle himself (or be handled) with care. Yesterday Mr Quayle prepared for a scheduled campaign trip to New Hampshire, where he and the president face a right-wing challenge from "America First" columnist Patrick Buchanan. The president's age and health are not likely to be an issue in that contest; more significant is the whether the challenge encourages Mr Bush to adopt new policy positions. But there was quiet satisfaction yesterday in the camp of Mr Bush's most likely Democrat challenger in November, Arkansas governor Bill Clinton, who at 45 parades an aggressively youthful appeal.

No Democrat would want to exploit the video-footage of the stumbling, grey-faced president — yet. Yesterday's morning news will go into the archives. But if the campaign gets as tough and as close as now seems

possible, the American public may yet see the pictures again — dressed up in the language of "legitimate concern". Republican rivals of the president need to be even more careful how they exploit the banquet scene of their national political drama. A few hours before his collapse, Mr Bush repeated his standard answer to the question of when he would announce his formal decision to run for re-election in November. Only his health would stop him, he said. If his health did indeed stop him, the Republican field would probably contain several from the president's close entourage, with the Secretary of State, James Baker, and the Defence Secretary, Richard Cheney to the fore. The conservative cabinet member Jack Kemp, who has publicly disagreed with the White House on a range of political and economic issues, would probably also be there, along-

side the Texas senator Phil Gramm. If medical reports continue to exercise their fascination for American voters, this may count against Mr Cheney who has had heart surgery. Commentators have watched with wonder as the former cancer sufferer, Democrat Paul Tsongas has stumped his way around the primary circuit, answering questions about his health with invitations to join him in long-distance swims. But if he looked a serious contender, wonder might turn to scepticism. No one, however, was foolish enough even to hint yesterday at the "I'm in charge" message which Alexander Haig tried after the assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981. This is a time for subtle positioning, a reconsideration by moderate Senator Robert Dole perhaps of his options to return. The president may only have gastric flu, but the stomach, as an early anatomist once put it, can be either "a mill, a fermenting wine vat or a stewpan". So too Washington.

reveals that he has been to Troops Out gatherings, and even rallies of pensioners, ordinary strikers and poll-tax marchers, which begins like this: "Your work allows no time for rest. The longest life is the merest span. Your cause the bravest, noblest, best. That's the inspired heart of man."

I do not imagine that Mr Kostick goes to posh dinner-parties *chez the bourgeoisie*, but just suppose for a moment that he finds himself in Belgrave Square, lodged up uncomfortably in a soup-and-fish rented from Moss Bros. The lady seated next to Mr Kostick turns to him and says "And what do you do?" She would be rather startled if the reply was "actually I'm an agitator", though she would not lose her composure (the women of the *bourgeoisie* are bred strong) and would say "Oh, I must come and see you doing it one of these days," before turning to the gentleman on her other side.

Go further back; imagine the Kostick home and hearth. Here is the infant Kostick and the kindly visitor: "And what do you want to be when you grow up, little fellow?" A high-pitched but determined voice pipes up: "An agitator, Mister." A shocked silence ensues, followed by a nervous laugh on the part of young Kostick's mother, who murmurs: "I'm sure he doesn't get it from my side of the family." But we can trace his rise all the way to his present eminence as the Nation's Greatest Agitator: infant school, primary school, polytechnic (no class-ridden university for him), and agitating all the way, from agitation in the infants' class over the squeaky chalk used by teacher at the blackboard writing "The cat sat on the mat", to agitation over the refusal of the polytechnic governors to throw out the syllabus and replace it with a course of nothing but Trotskyism.

Perhaps you don't know the one about the young man in New York who stops a passer-by and says "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" The man he asked shrugs and says: "Practice, practice, practice." No doubt Mr Kostick did precisely that.

THE prime minister has parted company with a key member of his backroom staff only months before the general election. Stephen York, the prime minister's correspondence secretary, who has power of attorney over replying to the thousands of letters which pour into Downing Street every week, has been replaced. The prime minister expects all letters, however cranky, to be answered. Even cranks, after all, have votes. The post is regarded as sensitive that Judith Chaplin, Major's political secretary, has invited Nigel Hawkins, Mrs Thatcher's former aide, to assist. He has returned on a part-time basis to advise Laura Adshad, who took over the correspondence role this week. Adshad has also consulted *The Times* own Matthew Parris, who handled Mrs Thatcher's correspondence when she was leader of the Opposition. Parris, after all, knows all about the job's pitfalls. In 1979 advice to a couple living in damp council house accommodation to think themselves lucky they had a roof over their heads was described as a leaflet by the Labour party to homes on council estates all over Britain.

The real tiny-Trot tendency

Bernard Levin examines the career of a cradle-to-grave revolutionary

Here is the record of another lost cause, but one so delightful that it turns into pure poetry. You do not have to be a Telegraph reader, or even a former one, to know of the man who goes under the pen-name of Peter Simple (he is really Michael Wharton); his fame has spread widely, and rightly. For very many years he wrote five times a week in the daily, and still writes, albeit now only once a week, in the Sunday.

In that time he has built a cast of characters to inhabit his palace of grotesques; so convincing did they become over the years that they seemed more real than the real people whose doings filled the rest of the paper. Each of the characters reflected the absurdity of some aspect of modern times, and many of the more ridiculous or obnoxious of them were plainly based on real people.

In this gallery there was one called Ken Flabb, always introduced as "the grenade-draped Ken Flabb", to delineate his fierce determination to overthrow the capitalist system and all that sail in it. But the point was that Flabb was a student — indeed the oldest student in the land (I think that when he was last heard from he was in his forties) — and he was still behaving like one, doing nothing but immerse himself in every left-wing body or activity, ready to rush off at any moment when there was a call for volunteers to organise demos, sit-ins and banner-waving marches: in the rare pauses from his more noisy activities Flabb could be seen on street corners selling the pamphlets of the Socialist Workers Party, I forget how Flabb managed to avoid actually taking his finals as the years went by.

Well, now, the splendid truth is that Flabb has come to life, for there really is a man who seems to be and do what the imaginary figure was and did. He is a Mr Kostick, and he has pledged himself to replace the present

order with a Trotskyite one. The existence of this heroic figure, hitherto unsuspected by any but his Trotskyite comrades (and it is possible that he went under a nom de guerre even among them), was revealed when he carelessly left his diary at a student demo in Birmingham; the *Daily Mail* found and promulgated it, thus ensuring that when Mr Kostick and his comrades come to power, the *Mail* will be even more thoroughly expropriated than the rest of the capitalist press.

I assume that the diary in which he records his activities is a Revolutionary's Diary, akin to the vast variety of specialised daily reminders you can get in any good stationers — the Fly-Fisherman's Diary, the Tennis Diary and dozens more — and if so, its pages must be strewn with such items as Bukharin's birthday, the anniversary of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, the dates of prospective demos in the coming year, Karl Marx Day, and special offers of megaphones, T-shirts with Trotsky's face, banners, posters (minimum 100) and marbles (for throwing under the hooves of horses when the police charge).

It seems from the diary that Mr Kostick does virtually nothing but travel from one university or polytechnic to another, seeking uproar and joining in when it is found: Coventry, Wolverhampton, Warwick, Birmingham — he speeds from one seat of learning to another, tireless in the lost cause of persuading the nation's youth to set out, in the name of Trotsky, on the Long March to the nationalisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange, to secure the workers by hand or brain the fruits of their labours.

It is not quite clear whether Mr Kostick comes into the category of a worker by hand or by brain; possibly a bit of both, though much of his actual income (a commendably modest one) comes from neither, for he is apparently not above taking



his right to social security from the hand state which he is pledged to bring to its knees as soon as the downtrodden millions are ready to march. Presumably, he is too busy to line up at the labour exchange (as I am sure he would robustly call it, eschewing the feeble modern version "job centre"), or perhaps

he has found that there are few, if any, openings for agitators on the books.

It is difficult to withhold at least a modicum of admiration from Mr Kostick. Of course, one day he will be a very big wheel in the Trotskyite Republic of Former Britain, signing death warrants for people like me, but

even he would have to admit that The Day comes closer only very slowly. Yet he does not waver in his agitation; for him it is agitate, agitate, agitate, all summer long. There is a rather gloomy ditty in the IRA song-book (which reminds me — not content to do his agitating solely among the young, his diary re-

...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

Ever since the publication of *Mr Wu and Mrs Stich: The Letters of Evelyn Waugh and Diana Cooper*, I have been pestered to publish my own small treasure trove of letters by Lady Diana, all to major figures of the time, all written in the same week, a week in which, after a period of strenuous relaxation, she gradually became set on the idea of getting out of bed.

May 15, 1937. Darling Elly. Utterly but utterly exasperated — there is nothing more exasperating, don't you find, than lying in bed all day forcing oneself to sip champagne worrying about neglecting one's embroidery — I am so sorry, my dear, that I am not at home. At least one is adored, but adoration can be so very trying. I am struggling through a long, long book by poor, foolish Marcel Proust — very French — which my butler recites a trifle too slowly for my taste. Such are the burdens one must bear. I yearn to be out of bed shortly. Yrs Diana.

May 16, 1937. Dearest Po-Po. Bitterly disappointed that you haven't seen fit to correspond for three days. You were so very, very hostile at our last meeting at my beloved Vatican, saying you couldn't spare even ten minutes of your time to admire my new hat as you had to conduct Mass for three thousand in St Peter's. Don't you like my new hat, Po-Po? Do those tassels bother you, perhaps, and, if so, couldn't you have

come straight out with it? As you know I'm so terrible funnibal — vulnerable — venerable to being let down by friends. Today, I placed my right foot out of bed, and managed to do so a slipper, but I am not by nature the outward-bound sort, so I return'd to bed and my thoughts. Yr beloved Diana.

May 17, 1937. Darlingest Milly. I would so very much like to begin a political correspondence with you. When young, I loved democracy, but I never saw it, except on bank holidays at the castle, and the children were kept indoors so as not to catch disease and lice. My dictum has long been "Forward with the People". "Forward, Charteris", I say, and the kitchen maid steps forward perfectly happily. You know, Milly, I have so much to contribute to our democracy, esp. my thoughts but also my hats. Can one stand for Parliament from bed or must one get up? It is years since I spotted a decent hat on the Conservative benches, and this surely must be remedied. If poss., do be a poppet and arrange my election and I will adore you forever. All love D.

May 18, 1937. Dear, Darling Toni. Boofy says that Toofy asked Goofy to marry Poofy, but Poofy prefers Hoofy who is married to Boofy, who says that Toofy asked Goofy to marry Poofy. I was delighted to receive your new slim vol. *Of Ponies and Peonies*. I will have Hardcastle read it to me when he has finished pasting my toothbrush. This morning I

almost managed to get out of bed, but was held back by a weight of adoration arriving by the first post. Why don't my admirers realise that I am a very busy Lady, with four pillows to plump before nightfall. Nevertheless, I am determined to take some exercise, so I have had Blunders bring me a selection of large-brimmed hats, which I shall have Charteris place on and off my head for a half-hour, when I shall retire utterly exasperated. Peek-a-Boo Diana.

May 19, 1937. Darling Choo-Choo. Miserable all day and in complete purgatory after three hefty crumbs from my breakfast table lodged themselves on my pillow. By a cruel stroke of fate, Hardcastle was away on an errand, delivering the day's envelopes for licking by Blunders in the basement. Before he arrived back, the three crumbs had been joined by a fourth. Rarely have I known such anxiety. At least I now feel I can share in the suffering of the homeless and the out-of-work, about whom we are expected to read so much these days and I shall mention this in my election address. Tomorrow, I plan to emerge from bed as I have a tremendous backlog of flowers to arrange. Exhorting work of course, but my admirers expect it of their, and your, darling Diana.

Right regal snub

THE Queen, it is understood, is not amused. The owners of the most famous portrait of Her Majesty Elizabeth II have refused permission for it to be included in the exhibition due to open in April as part of the celebrations to mark her 40 years on the throne.

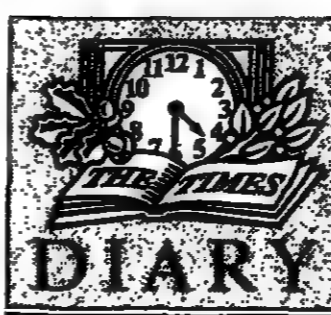
Pietro Annigoni's 1955 portrait remains the most popular image of Elizabeth II ever committed to canvas. As it has been reproduced on countless stamps throughout the Commonwealth, there can hardly be a subject who is not familiar with the picture.

Yet those visiting the Sovereign exhibition at the V & A, will have to make do with a copy. The owners of the original painting, the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, have refused pleas from the trustees organising the anniversary celebrations to lend it.

The refusal has "astonished and disappointed" the curator, John Julius Norwich. "The Annigoni is the most important picture ever painted of the Queen. It is very disappointing. I cannot understand their decision." The Fishmongers' reply to Norwich says it is "against policy to loan pictures under any circumstances". Norwich then enlisted the aid of Buckingham Palace which also wrote to the Fishmongers. "We made it clear there was no objection to them lending the picture," says a Palace spokesman.

The Fishmongers remained unmoved. Ronald Montgomery, steward of the company, says: "This has been our policy. There is always the risk of damage."

Fortunately there is a copy, currently in the British embassy in Rome. Few visitors to the exhibition will notice the difference.



Quick switch

HOW did the broadcasters and yesterday's newspapers come to misquote John Major when he described the doom and gloom merchants as "dismal Jimmies"? With the exception of the *Daily Express*, every report quoted the prime minister as attacking the "dismal Johnnies".

The error was understandable. The pre-released Downing Street

Ravenscraig workers?



text clearly had the word "Johnnies" rather than "Jimmies". His speechwriters seemed unaware of the danger of opponents seizing on "dismal Johnnies" as a nickname for the prime minister himself. Major, however, was more alert, and made a hasty change during his speech on Tuesday night.

By luck Major's quick thinking also meant he got the allusion right. For while "dismal Johnnies" has no historical antecedent, the

Euro sizes

EUROPE may be a long way off agreement on political union, but unity has agreed in at least one area: the size of the Eurocoindom. The EC-approved condom will go on sale in 1994. As with all attempts at harmonisation, agreement was not reached without a fight. This time it was not Britain that was the odd man out, but Italy, which attempted to torpedo the agreement by trying to ban domestic sales of sheaths which exceeded a width of 2.06 inches.

Brussels would have none of it. "The objections amounted to a barrier to pan-European trade," the Commission said yesterday.

return
olivia



TEST OF SCOTTISH STEEL

The only legitimate complaint that can be laid against British Steel's decision yesterday to close the Ravenscraig steel works in Scotland is that it has been too long delayed. Ravenscraig, a product of the interventionist policies of the Macmillan years, should probably never have been built. Any remaining rationale for its existence disappeared when the car plants which it was meant to supply were closed in the 1980s. Yet it was allowed to stagger on, though subject to a series of salary cuts that have reduced the remaining workforce to 1,150 from some 13,000 in its heyday.

Its survival was entirely political. Never mind that British Steel has been privatised: successive Scottish secretaries have seen it as their right to meddle with its commercial decisions. In 1984, George Younger gave a most unwise pledge that, subject to commercial considerations, the plant had ten more years left. More recently, Malcolm Rifkind threatened resignation if Ravenscraig went and his timorous colleagues gave way. Yesterday it was being said that Ravenscraig would have survived even now if the government had a stronger Scottish secretary.

The reverse is more nearly the truth. Ian Lang, the current incumbent, is the first Scottish secretary with the strength of conviction to stand up to knee-jerk opinion north of the Border and the tendency to blame Scotland's every unhappiness on insensitive Sassenachs. Truly, those who yesterday wrung their hands at the "dismal Jimmies" of whom the prime minister complained on Tuesday.

Overall unemployment in the United Kingdom is up by a third since the current rise started in March 1990, while in Scotland, the increase is 10 per cent. So while unemployment in Scotland is still above the United Kingdom average, the gap is narrow and, more significantly, narrowing. Ravenscraig was examined by consultants for the Scottish Development Agency last year, who said it had no prospects.

The arguments for closure now — at the bottom of an economic cycle before industrialists start looking round for the sites and skills for their next expansion — are overwhelming. The recession, particularly in the motor industry, is longer and deeper than expected; and as a result there is far too much steel capacity in Europe. In 1989/90 British Steel made £565 million profit before tax; in 1990/91, £194 million, and in the first six months of 1991/2, £19 million. When a large loss looms the company cannot afford the luxury of unneeded plant. In any case, even if the government wanted to subsidise Ravenscraig the competition department of the European Commission would surely stop it from doing so.

These are harsh economic facts. They do not mean that sympathy is not due to the steelworkers, who, like some 200,000 of their predecessors in the industry, now find that it can no longer use their skills. Fortunately their future prospects need not be grim. Corby and Consett are both now reasonably prosperous towns, despite steel closures which cost many more jobs than will go in Ravenscraig. Shotton, another example, has just attracted the new Toyota engine plant.

John Major was right to assure the people of Ravenscraig yesterday that the government would not "abandon" Lanarkshire, and would set up an enterprise zone for the region. Labour too needs to say what it has in mind. The rundown is to be phased over nine months, which would theoretically give an incoming Labour government the chance to intervene. Yesterday, Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, huffed and puffed but resisted giving a commitment to reverse the decision. That he should continue to do so is an acid test of whether Labour really has purged itself from its past devotion to propping up smokestack industry. Sad though Ravenscraig's demise will be, any party which intervened to revive the works would thereby show itself unfit to be trusted with Britain's industrial future.

COMMITMENT TO PEACE

Nothing can excuse the shooting down over Yugoslavia of the EC monitors' clearly marked helicopter. But nothing could be less astonishing. The vulnerability of the EC monitors, whose operations were temporarily suspended yesterday morning, has been evident at least since the siege of Dubrovnik. The new UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros Ghali, is right to conclude that this incident "vividly demonstrates" the need to speed up UN peacekeeping efforts.

The one flaw in Cyrus Vance's otherwise admirable plans for dispatching a UN peacekeeping force is his insistence that a ceasefire must first be seen to be clearly established. That requirement has always been an invitation to whatever faction wanted the peace process to fail to stage an incident. The encouraging feature of this latest incident is that none of the main political actors now appears to want that to happen. The prompt apology and promised enquiry by Yugoslav federal authorities indicates anxiety to repair the damage. And support for UN intervention is gaining, not losing, ground in the UN Security Council.

The UN, however, is a body notorious for making haste slowly. The British, presiding over the security council this month, are confident that the UN's advance group of some 50 UN military liaison officers will be in position by Friday. Their job will be to monitor the withdrawal of federal forces from Croatia. But no date has been set for the further security council resolution, which would be required for the deployment of the main 10,000-strong peacekeeping contingent. The two operations, together with Lord Carrington's efforts to hammer out a political solution, should be seen as linked elements of a single strategy. It is therefore disturbing that the national composition of these forces and even the approximate date of their arrival remain matters of conjecture.

Most of the practical as well as the diplomatic preconditions for early deployment have been met, including the question of who will pay for this latest UN operation. The forces will have two main components: military "police" carrying sidearms to patrol with the local police to protect civilians; and military units with armoured cars and helicopters to monitor the ceasefire.

The emphasis is on peacekeeping, not

peacemaking. If the UN forces are to deter the many military groups on both sides who are beyond the control of Serb, Croat and federal political and military authorities, they may still need to be more heavily armed than the UN now envisages. They may also need naval and air support to prevent precisely the kind of airborne violations of the ceasefire conditions that occurred on Tuesday and to keep the Yugoslav federal navy firmly in port. This operation must, on no account be suspended, as was the EC mission. The troops must be able to defend themselves and separate combatants if necessary. But this is not incompatible with deployment well before the end of this month. There is no guarantee that the present flimsy consensus within Yugoslavia on their deployment will hold, any more than the ceasefire.

Pending the EC decision on recognition, expected next week, the Croats have an interest in playing ball. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, faces a growing Serbian anti-war movement and wants to avoid international sanctions. Most of the mainstream federal army commanders want a UN-patrolled ceasefire. But the army is split. Mr Milosevic is being defied with growing confidence by radical Serbian nationalists in Croatia and northern Bosnia and some army units could side with them. Time is not on the side of peace.

Britain, as current security council president, has a special responsibility to speed up the timetable. Its authority might be enhanced if the government were to reconsider its insistence on limiting its own UN contribution to signalling and communications and logistical support, stopping short of frontline troops. Mr Hurd's argument that Britain has done more than its share of peacekeeping over the years, notably in Cyprus, may be fair but is beside the point.

Of the EC members, Britain's determined even-handedness in this conflict qualifies it better than, for example, Italy for frontline duties. France has offered 4,000 frontline and 2,500 support troops. The government insists that election year has nothing to do with the limitations it has set. Mr Hurd has been admirably insistent on the need for rapid UN action. He should consider setting a weightier example of Britain's practical commitment to peace in Yugoslavia.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

In a typical Russian fairy story a golden cockerel appears to a peasant family just as things are at their worst. Hunger looms, the old mother is ill, the father out of work, the young ones about to be sold into servitude. The bird plucks a magic feather from his tail, which brings a shower of money in its wake. The family, overjoyed at its fortune, lives in plenty evermore.

Not so, it seems, in Russia today. Winter is at its frozen harshest. The shops are empty, the rulers weak, the money all gone. Suddenly from over the ocean a bird of salvation appears, bringing in its belly 120 tons of prime British beef fresh from an EC cold store. But this fairy tale has an altogether more Soviet ending. The bird alights at Moscow airport, and is met by busybody bureaucrats waving books of regulations and demanding, with palms outstretched, veterinary certificates and health clearances.

The bird, tired and laden, flies to the far north, to Murmansk. Great is the rejoicing among the cold and hungry. The strongest men, in smart army uniforms, are sent to unload the precious cargo. Eagerly they ask: is it for us? But when they hear it is destined for the needy their hearts harden, their efforts slacken and they melt into the snow. Wise men and women are now sent from

foreign capitals and laboratories in greenest Britain: in vain they plead and argue. In vain the minister barks that she has better ways of spending time and money. At last inspectors arrive to seize control of the meat that has brought nothing but quarrelling. They open the doors — and lo! the beef has disappeared.

Little Masha and Misha, hearing this tale, shrug. Life was ever thus in Russia. Over the waters, however, the tale brings sorrow to those whose hearts had once been wrung. In Bonn, they tell of medicines and babyfood pilouined by the koryolod. In London, old tales revive about emptying a cornucopia into Russia's fathomless wastes. In future, they say, the Aeroflot birds cannot be trusted to deliver the goods, and only stalwart soldiers of Nato forces can ensure that the needy receive what they are promised.

Luckily, the tale has a sequel. The wicked bureaucrats finally relented, insisting that their mischief had only been to protect the needy from disease and allay the envy of others. The mean soldiers were disciplined. And most of the meat was found, safely locked in a warehouse and ready for processing into sausage. More flights will now wing their way with more relief, and Russia's hungry may eat again. But the EC's golden cockerel will watch its feathers in future as carefully as rich men count their spoons.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Making up for lost economic and monetary ground

From Professor David Currie and Mr Geoffrey Dicks

Sir, Professor Tim Congdon and others (letter, January 7) — we think of them as "the Liverpool Six" — urge the government to abandon the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) after only 15 months, allowing sterling to float downwards, while simultaneously cutting interest rates with a view to terminating the recession.

We do not deny that the economy is in serious recession but the government should ignore this counsel. Unfortunately, within the UK context, there appears to be no way other than recession of bringing inflation and the current-account deficit to acceptable levels: would that it were otherwise.

To bring interest rates down would require a sharp depreciation of sterling; the consequent rise in import prices would raise inflation sharply. At a time when UK inflation has already bounced out at a level still above our main European competitors this policy would raise inflation again, throwing away the prize for the pain of the past year. Companies trading internationally would face major additional uncertainty from the floating exchange rate. Even in terms of political expediency the advice is bad: markets and the electorate will see the action as a last desperate twist of policy.

The Liverpool Six do not argue for the politically more realistic option of a devaluation of sterling within the ERM. In this they are right. Markets would expect one devaluation to be followed by another to accommodate higher inflation and would demand higher interest rates to compensate for this risk. The consequence would be a tightening of the monetary squeeze on UK companies and consumers at the same time as a lower exchange rate raised inflationary pressure.

The Six argue that floating the exchange rate would not damage the credibility of policy, since they consider this to be almost non-existent. This ignores the fact that credibility of UK membership of the ERM has built up rapidly over the 15 months

since entry, as the rapid narrowing of the differential between UK and German interest rates bears witness. Abandoning the ERM would jeopardise this hard-won credibility.

The Six's preferred alternative of monetary targeting failed in the 1980s to give the same credibility, partly as a consequence of financial liberalisation, and there is no reason to suppose it will in the 1990s: after all, the Six cannot agree amongst themselves as to whether to target a narrow or broad monetary aggregate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CURRIE,
GEOFFREY DICKS,
London Business School,
Centre for Economic Forecasting,
Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1,
January 7.

From Professor F. H. Hahn, FBA, and Mr M. R. Weale

Sir, While we do not believe that targeting the money stock is a sensible approach to economic management, there is much with which we agree in the views of Professor Congdon and his colleagues. We do not understand why critics of exchange-rate adjustment describe changes in exchange rates as "quick fixes".

Suppose that the real exchange rate is 10 per cent too high. This can be corrected by a depreciation, or alternatively by a deflationary policy designed to reduce prices and wages by 10 per cent relative to those of our competitors. If the level of employment has to be depressed by 1 per cent below the level which would have otherwise held in order to bring prices down by 1 per cent in one year, then output equal to 10 per cent of one year's production will be lost by a refusal to depreciate.

This figure is probably an underestimate rather than an overestimate, but the costs of devaluing really as much as the £50 billion which may be lost by not devaluing?

In 1946 the Bank of England was nationalised in order to prevent a repetition of the slump of 1931. There is a grave risk that an

independent central bank, whether at a national level or as part of a monetary union, would lead us back to the sort of policies abandoned 60 years ago by Montagu Norman.

Yours faithfully,
F. H. HAHN,
M. R. WEALE,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Economics and Politics,
Austin Robinson Building,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge,
January 7.

From Mr Morgan Rix

Sir, Sir Geoffrey Howe (letter, January 4) fails to mention that, prior to his becoming Chancellor, the Exchequer had no income from North Sea oil; all oil was imported.

Soon after 1980 Britain became self-sufficient in oil and the Chancellor was given a bonanza that provided much of the economic growth to which he refers.

The strong petro-currency pound was made even stronger by his hoisting interest rates to record levels, while inflation increased under the impact of higher VAT and nationalised-industry price increases.

At that time British manufacturing export industry was faced with two heavy increased costs — 20 per cent inflation, plus a 20 per cent increase in the value of the pound sterling. Large manufacturing exporters were unable to compete in world markets because of the sharply increased cost to importers. Our overseas competitors gained the business and one after another our manufacturing exporters went out of business. The British machine-tool industry is one example.

Nevertheless, in the early 1980s the government was able to boast a balance-of-payments surplus, provided by increasing North Sea oil receipts. When they were no longer able to provide the surplus, manufacturing capacity was no longer available to make up the balance.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. RIX,
13 Berkley Court,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire,
January 5.

Label law reform

From Mr P. F. Carter-Ruck

Sir, Your correspondents (January 8) mainly direct their fire against misuse of the label laws by Robert Maxwell. If, however, the reforms advocated by Tom Welsh (letter, December 30) and your leader (January 2) were implemented they would provide effective cover against abuse of this branch of the law.

In fact, Tom Welsh's recommendation, which I support, was first proposed by the joint working party of Justice and the International Press Institute under the chairmanship of Lord Shawcross in 1965.

That committee unanimously recommended, inter alia, that there should be a statutory defence of qualified privilege for newspapers in respect of the publication of matters of public interest where the publication is made in good faith, without malice, and is based upon evidence which might reasonably be believed to be true, provided that the defendant has published, upon request, a reasonable letter or statement by way of explanation or contradiction and withdrawn any inaccurate statements, with an apology if appropriate to the circumstances.

The Irish Law Reform Commis-

sion's recommendation that writs not proceed with after a period of six or 12 months should automatically be struck out, which you mention in your article, was also first recommended by Lord Shawcross's committee in 1965.

That committee also recommended that the Court of Appeal should be given power to vary damages awarded by a jury in the same way as it is entitled to vary an award of damages made by a judge.

It was not until 25 years after that report and 15 years after the report of Sir Neville Faulks's committee that this recommendation took its long-delayed place on the statute book by virtue of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

Both the Shawcross and the Faulks committees recommended that fair and accurate contemporaneous reports of foreign judicial and parliamentary proceedings published in a newspaper should be protected by qualified privilege, another proposed reform which is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
PETER F. CARTER-RUCK,
Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners
(Solicitors),
75 Shoe Lane, EC4,
January 8.

Keeping in touch

From Miss Jane M. Reynolds

Sir, I am sorry Mrs Mitchell (letter, January 7) does not like receiving computer print-out commentaries on the Senders' family lives.

I am the carer of two elderly parents, each with a number of relatives and friends who like to keep in touch. It would be impossible for me to respond to every Christmas or greeting card with an individual letter on their behalf and retain time during the day for all the other duties which come my way.

Also, should I be obliged to communicate bad news of illness, deterioration or death, or possibly death, the number of times this would have to be written would be very depressing for me, let alone the recipient.

A computer print-out letter may seem impersonal, but can be a great help in maintaining a cheerful outlook in the face of depressing circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
JANE REYNOLDS,
Sundal, 68 Firs Road,
West Mersea, Colchester, Essex,
January 7.

Compare that requirement of unanimity with the fact that in vastly serious matters belonging to the criminal courts a majority verdict of the jury may be accepted.

The 1986 measure also means that non-professionals (parish representatives) sit in judgment over the professional competence of a clergyman after meeting him for 20 minutes as the parson's candidate for the incumbency. This situation is akin to clergy sitting in judgment over the professional competence of someone qualified in medicine. This is something the clergy would never presume to do.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Timing of attack on Belgrano

From Mr Peter Grosvenor

Sir, I earnestly suggest that Labour MP Tam Dalyell (letter, January 6) reads the forthcoming *Channel 4* book by Denis Blakeway, *The Falklands War*, currently being serialised in the *Daily Express*, before jumping to any more unwarranted conclusions about the sinking of the Belgrano.

He writes: "War is war. And had the Belgrano been sunk while she was a threat there would have been no complaint or questions from me."

In fact the Belgrano with its Exocet-armed escorts was a threat and a very worrying one to our task force, which was caught in the pincer movement between the Belgrano and the aircraft carrier 25 de Mayo to the north which was armed with Skyhawk aircraft.

This is what Captain Hector Bonzo, commander of the Belgrano, now says about his order to turn back:

The order was received to return towards a waiting station, not towards the mainland as has been said so many times, and not towards port as has been said on so many other occasions, but to a waiting circle, of which we already had many allocated to us in the South Atlantic.

In short, although the attack on the Belgrano had been called off for the time being, it had not been cancelled. Nor was the war Cabinet aware at the time of the sinking that the Belgrano had changed course, and the sinking had already taken place before the then foreign secretary, Francis Pym, had informed London of the new Peruvian peace initiative.

Therefore Mr Dalyell's allegations that the cruiser was torpedoed to kill off the peace talks is exposed as nonsense, likewise his slur on Mrs Thatcher.

Regrettable as was the loss of 323 Argentine lives, the sinking could well have averted the loss of several thousand British lives in the task force and the failure of our entire mission to liberate the Falkland Islands.

In fact the end of the Belgrano was decisive in eliminating the Argentine navy from the rest of the war.

Yours etc,
PETER GROSVENOR
(Literary Editor),
Daily Express,
Ludgate House,
245 Blackfriars Road, SE1,
January 6.

From Mr John A. Graham

Sir, I am surprised at the rather academic debate. Surely an enemy warship ceases to be a threat only after it has surrendered or has been sunk.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. GRAHAM,
277 Old Farm Avenue,
Sidcup, Kent,
January 6.

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Sir, Mr Tam Dalyell is right in one thing, war is war. By coincidence, 50 years ago today HM submarine *Upholder* sank the Italian submarine *Ammiraglio Saint-Bon* which was returning from patrol to its base in Palermo. Like the Belgrano, no threat?

Yours sincerely,
LEWIN,
House of Lords,
January 6.

Killer magpies

From Mr R. E. H. Edmunds

Sir, Your third leader on January 3 denies that the recent explosion in the magpie population is to blame for the decline of song birds. The fact is that the staple diet of magpies in the nesting season is the eggs and fledglings of other birds.

Disarmed at seeing these robbers from my bathroom window each morning, vandalising nests and leaving a trail of empty eggshells, I acquired a decoy magpie in a trap last spring and with it caught 22 of the pests.

By the summer, I am glad to say, there was a welcome increase of blackbirds and thrushes in my garden, particularly evident during their dawn and dusk chorus.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. H. EDMUNDS,
Micklefield Hall,
Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire,
January 4.

Cuts for fat cats?

From Mr Brian Sterry Ashby

Sir, Mr Matthew Parris ("... and moreover", January 6) puts an excellent case for a "fat tax", a principle I have had in mind for many years. As a consultant surgeon I know very well the nightmare of delving through layers of adiposity to locate and repair or remove the offending portion of anatomy.

When I was younger, I worked for a famous surgeon who charged his private patients fees per pound body weight for major operations.

Yours faithfully,
B. STERRY ASHBY
(Consultant surgeon, retired),
Keigwin,
Mousehole,
Penzance, Cornwall,
January 6.

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1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

ملک و ملت

10. *What is the purpose of the study?*

COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAXEY AND CAROLINE DONALD
CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

TV

Diene Bull (as the younger Abigail) and Patricia Hayes (as her older self), she is patently not a man. So, the focus shifts to her "men" (played by Anna Savai). This is a very odd play indeed, made even odder by

penises the BBC Sound Archives for compelling radio coverage of sports and other "visual" events (r)

12.00am News 12.57 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 PM closes/LW joins World Service

SEQUENCES: Radio 1: 1053k/12.255m; 1069k/12.275m; FM97.8-99.8 Radio 2: 829k/12.252m; 830k/12.254m; 84.5-88.0 2. Radio 3: 1.214Hz/1.272m; FM93.0

Correspondent 3.50 The Farming World 8.45 Sports News 11.00 News Summary
1.01 Assignment 10.30 Today's Case 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 London Mid 11.45
Information 11.59 Weather 12.00 World News 12.05pm News About Britain 12.15
12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsweek 2.00 World News 2.05 Outlook 2.15
12.45 The Small Goldeneye 2.45 Recording of the Week 3.00 World News 3.15 Music with
1.00 World News 3.05 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 House Artist 5.00
World News & Business Report 3.15 The World Today 5.30 Sunday Ser. 5.14 BBC English
5.25 News Summary 6.30 World News 6.45 World German Features 7.45 News in German 8.00
World News & Business Report 8.15 London Derris 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 Newsweek
10.00 World News 10.05 Global Concerns 10.30 Network UK 10.50 Sports Roundup
11.00 News Summary 11.30 Newsdesk 11.45 London Mid 11.59 Weather 12.00 World News

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سکھو ۱۵۱

Bush to
soldiers
on after
collapse

EC sets deadline for cement groups in cartel enquiry

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS
AND ROSS TIEMAN IN LONDON

THE European Commission has rejected the cement industry's claim that an investigation into price fixing is unnecessary, and says that big fines could follow its enquiry. It has written to 76 leading cement producers giving them two months to prepare their defences.

Lawyers from Blue Circle Industries, Rugby Cement Group and Castle Cement, Britain's leading cement makers, will arrive in Brussels tomorrow to defend their companies. Ian McKenzie, chief executive of Blue Circle Cement, said last night: "We have not behaved improperly and we will

defend our position vigorously," Pat Jackson, chairman of Rugby Cement, also protested his company's innocence. "I see no reason why this should affect the share price of our company," he added.

A source close to the office of Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, said yesterday that the wide variety in cement prices in the community, and the almost total segmentation of the market, demanded an investigation. He said that the prices charged by Blue Circle, Rugby and Castle Cement in Britain, for example, are 40 per cent higher than prices charged in Greece, but that it is nearly impossible for British builders to buy their cement in another community nation. The source

added: "The market is clearly segmented and there is no evidence that this is changing. If anything, it is going the other way. We want to know why this is happening: if there are agreements between countries, for example, to keep customers out."

The enquiry is part of a commission investigation into an industry with a low profile but a huge turnover. The commission is understood to want to know why cement prices in Britain have not fallen markedly since the common price and marketing agreement, which prevailed in Britain for more than 50 years until it was scrapped in 1987. Details of the agreement were furnished to the EC in 1973. In 1989, at the start of its investigation,

the commission raided offices of cement companies in Belgium, Italy, Germany and France for evidence of a cartel. The biggest cartel fines imposed were the £11.4 million and £21 million demanded from ICI and Belgium's Solvay just over a year ago for fixing soda ash prices. Under competition guidelines, companies can be fined up to 10 per cent of sales for operating cartels.

The British cement market is concentrated in the hands of Blue Circle, believed to have 55 per cent of the market. Castle, at about 25 per cent, and Rugby, at about 20 per cent.

A Blue Circle executive denied the commission's assertion that prices were higher

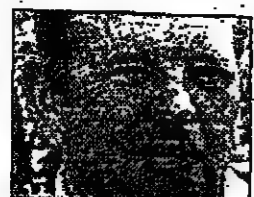
in Britain. "I would be surprised to find any big differences in the community," he said, pointing out that illegal government subsidies could help make Greek cement cheaper. He denied that any cartel existed in Britain, adding: "We would deny any collusion whatsoever."

He said it was possible for British companies to buy non-British cement, although he admitted that because of the high costs of transport, only buying in bulk would make any sense. Specialist cement importers operate in London, Liverpool, Hull and Leith. Blue Circle is one of the world's top four cement producers. Its overall group sales - including non-cement activities - were £1.2 billion last year.

JOHN MANNING

TODAY IN BUSINESS

NO CHOICE



Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, had no alternative but to close Ravenscraig, despite the outcry. The question was never if but when, Philip Bassett says Page 23

GATT IMPASSE

Gatt negotiators must resolve the impasse between America and Europe over farm subsidies Page 21

PUBS PURCHASE



Geoffrey Kent, chairman of Mansfield Brewery, has announced the company is buying 86 Courage pubs for an estimated £10 million Page 21

INSURER BIDS

Sun Alliance, the composite insurer, has made a £72 million bid for Forenede-Gruppen, the Norwegian life company Page 21

AIRPORTS FIRST



Sir John Egan believes BAA's business is running airports, not hotels, and wants Ladbroke and Forte to manage hotels at Heathrow and Gatwick Page 20

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8730 (-0.0055)
German mark 2.8395 (-0.0083)
Exchange index 91.4 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1885.9 (-18.2)
FT-SE 100 2467.1 (-15.8)
New York Dow Jones 3225.85 (+21.02)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 22715.00 (-851.39)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month sterling bills 10 1/2-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3 3/8-3 7/8%
30-year bonds 10 3/4-10 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.8725
DM £2.8395
Sfr £2.5307
FF £6.2625
Yen £233.97
Index 91.4
ECU £0.716871
£ SDR 1.30451
£ SDR 1.307618

London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$350.20 pm \$350.80
close \$350.50-351.00 (£187.10-187.60)
New York
Comex \$351.05-351.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ... \$17.40 bbl (\$18.15)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 November (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Bush collapse adds to woes for sterling

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Bush's dramatic collapse at a Japanese state banquet triggered a brief dollar sell-off, but persistent devaluation speculation kept up the pressure on the pound, forcing it to its lowest London close for 18 months.

The American currency regained its poise quickly after news that the president's illness had been diagnosed as gastric flu. Renewed health doubts could, however, add to dollar weakness, strengthening the mark and, incidentally, adding to pressure on sterling. Some switching out of dollar and into marks and yen was detected in the late

afternoon. Stuck at the bottom of the European exchange-rate mechanism, the pound had a bad day amid speculation about devaluation or an ERM realignment.

Reports that Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister, has privately advocated pulling out of ERM continued to circulate. The speculation prompted the Treasury to deny that any meeting was planned to make an announcement on sterling.

At the Bank of England close at 4pm, the pound stood at DM2.8395, its lowest close since June 1990, having dropped almost a penny since the previous finish, and little more than half a penny

above its effective floor, at which the authorities must intervene. Sterling finished almost half a cent easier against the dollar, at \$1.8730. The trade-weighted index was down 0.1 at 91.4.

The dollar ended about a quarter penny weaker at DM1.5170. In the absence of an expected commitment from the Japanese and American leaders to a firmer yen, the American currency rose to ¥124.90 from ¥124.50. The Bundesbank's policy-setting council meets today, but it is not expected to alter its key lending rates.

Stock markets in London and New York rallied as fears about President Bush's health receded. The FT-SE 100 index, which nursed a fall of more than 40 points at one stage, closed 15.8 points lower at 2,467.1 after a late recovery spurred by an unexpected rise in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 18 points within the first half hour of trading, then rose 20 points before settling 12.97 points ahead at a new 3,217.80 peak by lunchtime on Wall Street.

Michael Jenkins, editor and publisher of Stock Cycles Forecast, which tracks the Dow's performance, said: "Traditionally, presidential illness and heart attacks only affect the market for a few days. But the market is historically over-bought, and any suggestion that Bush may not run for re-election or if he does, fails to do well at the crucial primaries next month will spark a major sell-off."

Edward Shopkorn, a managing partner with Mabon Securities, said: "People are nervous. Everyone's concerned what this means for the election going forward. The Democrats historically are not good for the market and [vice-president Dan] Quayle is not good for the market."

Comment, page 23

Chancellor admits poor forecasting

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, and Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, admitted yesterday that official forecasts about the economy had been wrong. They said, however, that even if they had been right, economic policy would have been the same.

Both said, too, that it was more important to get the elements of economic recovery right than to concentrate on the exact month when the recovery began.

Their comments were made at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council, the joint government-industry-union economic forum. Both the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress pressed the Chancellor for measures in the budget to stimulate investment.

The relative unanimity of the meeting broke down, however, when the Chancellor was pressed on the accuracy of forecasting.

Mr Lamont said forecasting was, by its nature, uncertain, and not as important as was sometimes asserted. It did not determine economic policy, which was directed at medium-term aims.

Union and business leaders seized on the Chancellor's and the Governor's statements as the first indication by the government that its forecasts about economic recovery had been incorrect.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton told the council that eventually a cash build-up, normal in a recession, would restore consumer confidence. He said Britain needed a nine-year sustained recovery, rather than a two-year boom.

Top Ratner salaries threatened

By JON ASHWORTH



Ratner: under pressure

SENIOR executives at Ratner Group, Britain's biggest jewellery chain, are certain to have to take big pay cuts after what is believed to have been a slump in Christmas sales.

Pay at the company is tightly linked to performance and City analysts think directors' salaries will be cut by as much as a third as a result of the latest slump, the extent of which is expected to be revealed tomorrow. Mr Ratner, chairman and chief executive,

is believed to be under pressure to hand over one of his two roles - or both - to someone else.

He and his four senior directors earned £2 million between them last year. The contract of Gary O'Brien, the group finance director, is subject to five years' notice.

Shares in Ratners rallied against a falling market yesterday to close at 23p. In the past year, they have fallen from 189p.

Rich, famous...and repossessed

By MATTHEW BOND

SAVILLS has long enjoyed a reputation as estate agent to the rich and famous, but not even the highest echelons of the property market are immune from the savagery of the recession.

Pre-tax losses of £762,000, at Savills were 76 per cent higher than last year, prompting the firm to pass its interim dividend (1.125p). Traditional businesses such as the selling of country houses and farmland made an operating loss of £575,000, while newer and recently successful ventures such as commercial property contributed a loss of £259,000.

But all is far from lost, as George Inge, Savills' chairman, made clear. For while the patronage of Britain's landed gentry and wealthy City executives is no less important to Savills these days, the firm is increasingly active in a different

line of work - insolvency. From Leicestershire farmland to London flats, the role of the receiver or liquidator is becoming ever more significant in the property market. For unlike the prudent owner who, in the current market, will opt to sit tight and ride out the storm, receivers nearly always have to sell.

Mr Inge said: "We're getting an increasing line of instructions from banks and receivers. Once things are in the hands of the receiver, then you know they have to be sold, which does help us a little bit."

The firm's best known instruction from the insolvency profession was to sell Burley-on-the-Hill, the 750-acre Leicestershire estate formerly owned by a company backed by Asil Nadir, the former chairman of Polly Peck International. Together with Knight Frank & Rutley, Savills last month sold the es-

tate for £2.5 million, some £4.5 million less than Mr Nadir paid for the property in 1990. Insolvency work has also lifted the firm's London residential division, which in the six months to end-October returned to profit after making substantial losses last year.

The number of properties sold rose 39 per cent, largely due to the success in selling 40 flats in the Cardamom Building, part of Sir Terence Conran's Butlers Wharf development near London's Tower Bridge. Butlers Wharf was placed in receivership last year. London's Docklands, an area hard hit by property company failures, has become one of the firm's busiest areas, Mr Inge said, helping the firm to shift £38 million of property, 10 per cent up on last year. But house prices are still falling, with the average price of a house sold by Savills 11.5 per cent down at £344,000.



Still in the frame: Stanley Kalms, who has chosen his successor at Dixons but is not yet ready to resign

City cheered despite Dixons decline

STANLEY Kalms, chairman of Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, has chosen his successor. He is John Clare, aged 41, who is promoted from head of Dixons Stores Group to managing director of the whole group (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Mr Clare replaces Mark Souhami, who becomes deputy chairman. However, Mr

Kalms, aged 60, said neither he nor Mr Souhami were intending to resign.

Dixons cheered the City with a strong Christmas performance. Mr Kalms said the percentage rise in sales over last year was in the mid-teens and although margins had come under pressure due to a discount war, the overall result was ahead of budget.

Camcorders and video games were festive favourites, while white goods are selling well in the January sales.

Group pre-tax profits fell 36 per cent to £17.5 million in the six months to November 9, mainly because of a £10.9 million loss from Silo in America. Sales grew from £812 million to £869 million but earnings fell from 3.4p to

1.6p a share. The dividend has been held at 1.6p.

The group's UK profits rose from £11.9 million to £20.5 million. At Currys, like-for-like sales grew 11 per cent, against a national average of about 2 per cent. They fell 2 per cent, however, within the Dixons stores chain.

Tempus, page 22

Maine-Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

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Negotiators seek to avoid a showdown

Growing pessimism marks efforts to produce Gatt deal

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that the world trade talks could be close to breaking down over the thorny issue of farm subsidies has stepped up the pressure on negotiators to seek to avoid a showdown when they reassemble in Geneva on Monday after the Christmas break.

With America and the European Community indicating no signs of narrowing the gap that divides them on sup-

ports to farmers, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade gathering to assess government responses to a take-it-or-leave-it package of draft accords could reopen old disputes, possibly widening the gap between Washington and Brussels.

Against a background of increasing pessimism about the prospects for concluding a trade liberalisation deal

after five years of talks, trade diplomats were yesterday signalling that the Uruguay Round would probably drag on for up to three more months before decisions emerge.

The Group of Seven leaders agreed at the July economic summit in London to aim at concluding the talks by the end of 1991, already a year later than originally planned. The prospect of further delay, and the mounting uncertainty about the outcome, has aroused fears that the round might fall foul of the electoral cycle in America and Europe.

The increasingly protectionist image that President Bush is projecting, and the strong resistance to change from France, Europe's main agricultural exporter, have reinforced concern that the trade talks could collapse, unleashing a wave of protectionism that could brake world growth sharply.

On Monday, negotiators will be presenting their governments' responses to the draft text put forward on December 20 by Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director general. His proposals, especially the compromise on agricultural supports, has met fierce criticism in Europe, Japan and America. Australia, which has led the Cairns Group of farm exporting nations, has, however, accepted the package. Mr Dunkel is expected to seek general acceptance that his draft text be the basis for continuing the search for a deal and completing the round. Despite the risk of becoming entangled in the American presidential election campaign, diplomats believe the talks could run until mid-April at the outside, which would allow an agreement to come into force at the start of 1993.

Community trade and industry ministers meet again tomorrow to consider the Dunkel proposals, but France has already indicated that it rejects the draft text on agriculture.

Exchanges have also taken place this week between key trade representatives from the commission and the Bush administration. However, Brussels officials have indicated that more problems have surfaced over the farm issue, suggesting that important amendments are required. Mr Dunkel gave warning that governments that sought to unravel his package could put the whole round at risk.



Profit brake: Peter Vardy believes the car market should recover next year

Vardy car sales 'hit by banks'

PETER Vardy, the chairman of Reg Vardy, the multi-franchise motor car dealer, believes the company has "lost" 1,300 in car sales in the last six months because of the tougher attitude of banks and leasing companies towards buyers wanting purchasing finance.

Mr Vardy suggests that the car market will recover once the uncertainty about the general election is resolved and that new car registrations will improve next year after a poor 1991.

The group was made a franchisee of Nissan Motor (GB), the Japanese manufacturers' distribution company for its own cars, on January 1 and it is looking to increase its representation of Japanese car manufacturers in Britain.

The group made pre-tax profits of £2.02 million in the six months ended October, compared with £2.1 million previously, on a turnover of £95.6 million (£93.7 million) and is raising the interim dividend 8 per cent to 1.3p.

Goode benefits from restructure

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE restructuring at Goode Durrant, the van hire to housebuilding group, has begun to pay off with first-half profits up on the second half of last year, although well down on a year ago.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to end October were £2.64 million (£5.33 million), 30 per cent ahead of the £2.04 million recorded for the six months to end April.

The performance was bitterly attacked by Winnedael, an investment vehicle holding 24 per cent of Goode and controlled by the south African Nash family. Timothy Nash criticised the "abysmal performance" of Goode, the dual roles held by Michael Waring, the chairman and chief executive, and the lack of independent non-executive directors on the board.

The most marked improvement came in the vehicle and equipment hire division, which saw profits before tax

soar from £187,000 to £1.3 million since the year end. Profits for the van hire business, Northgate, during the period were higher than for the whole of last year.

Profits at Laidlaw, the car dealer subsidiary, were well down on the same period last year, while Rawlings, the housebuilding and construction division, suffered from the general weakness in the property market. Mr Waring said construction did not form part of the group's long term strategy.

The interim dividend was held at 2.15p. With earnings per share falling from 6.5p to 3.5p, dividend cover was reduced to 1.6 times. Year-end borrowings of £10 million were reduced during the first half, said Dudley Thompson, the finance director. Mr Waring said the company would remain cautious while the timing of the recession remained uncertain.

Mansfield to buy 86 more public houses from Courage

BY MARTIN WALLER

MANSFIELD Brewery, the Yorkshire and East Midlands beer maker, is buying a package of 86 Courage public houses in its area for an estimated £10 million.

This is the second deal Mansfield has done with Courage in a year. Last April, the company bought 29 larger managed houses for £8.6 million. Colin Stump, the Mansfield commercial and marketing director, said the latest purchase would be satisfied out of the company's existing borrowing facilities and would not involve the issue of shares.

Mansfield was offered a larger package by Courage and picked out those it wanted in its area. The company will have a total estate of 421 houses after the latest deal, which is subject to legal finalisation.

Mansfield said the announcement had been made before the deal was finalised, to allay fears and uncertainties of existing Courage tenants, who will transfer with their pubs. The Courage estate had been known to be on the market, and speculation in the trade had named a number of buyers.

Most of the pubs being bought are in villages or small communities.

Meanwhile, as part of the continuing shakeout in the drinks trade, it has emerged that Bass is in exploratory talks to sell its Augustus Barnett off-licences to Allied-Lyons in a deal that would create a second big nationwide chain to vie with Whitbread's recently enlarged Thresher business.

Neither party would comment on the deal, but analysts believe the 600 Augustus Barnett outlets are worth more than £40 million, on the basis that Whitbread bought Grand Met's 667-strong Peter Dominic chain for £50 million. Allied-Lyons may also buy Bass's Chateau Lascombes vineyard in Bordeaux.

The merged outfit would be just short of the 1,600 outlets now owned by Threshers. The next biggest off-licence chain, owned by Greenalls, has about 500 branches. As well as bringing economies of scale, the purchase of Augustus Barnett would provide further outlets for Allied's wines and spirits business.

Bass bought 250 Augustus Barnett off-licences in 1983 from the receivers and subsequently rebranded the rest of its portfolio. The business was previously one of the English

interests of the Rumasa group of Spain.

Scottish & Newcastle is moving one of two canning lines now in Edinburgh to Manchester and replacing it with a bottling plant, creating unspecified but small redundancies. The move will shift some canning capacity to England, where the take-home market is strongest, while increasing bottling output in Scotland, where demand is greatest. S&N says.

Orders at Airbus fall to 100

Aircraft orders at Airbus Industrie fell to about 100 in 1991, well below 1990's 404 and the group's earlier 1991 forecast of 145. The group delivered slightly less than the 170 jets it forecast for 1991.

A spokesman for the consortium said: "Everybody's orders are down this year. It was, as we expected, a lot worse than previous years."

All the civil aircraft makers expected orders to plunge in 1991 due to losses suffered by most airlines.

Record levy

The collapse of the London United Investments insurance group has resulted in the biggest ever levy, 0.5 per cent of net 1990 income, on all 500 general insurers in the UK under the Policyholders Protection Act. LUI went into administration in May 1990 when a £100 million shortfall was found in its reserves.

NFC in talks

NFC, the owner of Pickfords, is in talks with Ansett Transport Industries, of Australia, about the purchase of Ansett Wridgways, its removals offshoot which has a turnover of A\$50 million (£20.2 million).

Century buys

Century, the investment group with £150 million under management, has bought NEL Britannia, with £600 million under management, from UNUM for an undisclosed price.

Malta bourse

Malta opened its first stock exchange yesterday. Trading began in government stocks worth about \$120 million.

Sun Alliance joins Norway bid battle

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

SUN Alliance, the composite insurance group, has launched a £72 million white knight bid for Forenede Gruppen of Norway.

The NKr200 (£17.8 million) a share bid for the fourth largest life company in Norway, is being made through Codan, Sun Alliance's 71.5 per cent owned Danish subsidiary.

The offer is recommended by the Forenede board and follows a NKr145 a share bid from Gjensidige, a Norwegian insurance company.

Forenede has not yet published its 1991 accounts but, in 1990, had life assurance premium income of

NKrl 329 million, giving it a 10 per cent market share, and non-life premiums of NKr758 million. Earnings per share were NKr13.59, after tax.

A spokesman for Sun Alliance said both sides of the Norwegian company's operations were profitable, with little exposure to major offshore risks, such as oil rigs. The goodwill write-off resulting from the acquisition would have "only a marginal negative impact" on Sun Alliance's solvency margins.

The move is the latest in a succession of purchases and joint ventures on the Continent by Sun Alliance.

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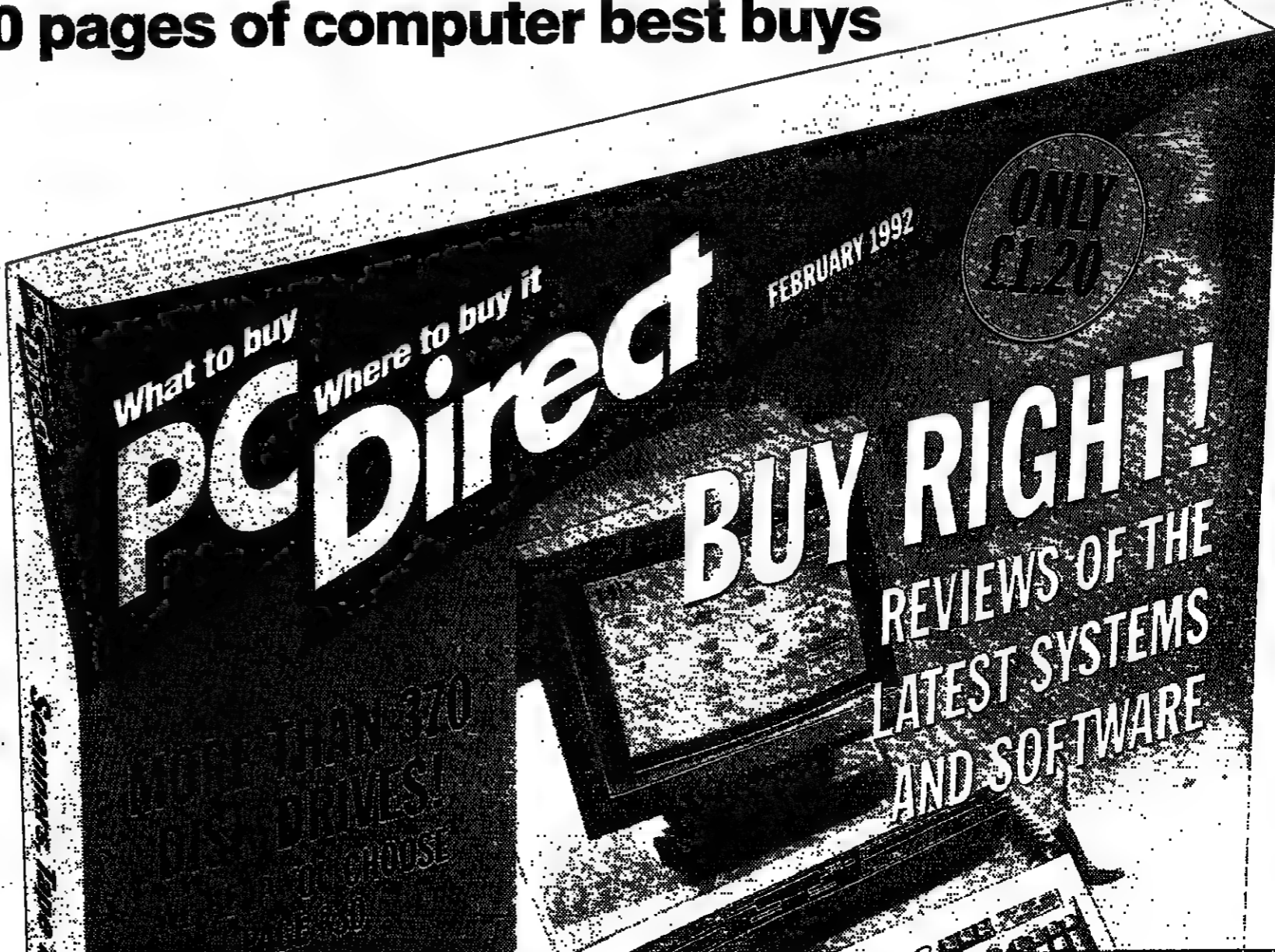
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Trends speak louder than profit at Dixons

THE City was cheered yesterday by Dixons Group interim profits — down 36 per cent at £17.5 million. It's that sort of recession.

Leaving aside the numbers, the trends at Dixons are encouraging. Profits at the UK retail business almost doubled to £20.5 million in the six months to November 9, while Christmas sales, including those at new stores, were up about 15 per cent. Group share of the domestic electrical retail market rose from 17 to 18 per cent.

Group sales were £869 million, up from £812 million, although operating profits fell from £19.4 million to £12.7 million. Interest accrued fell from £7.3 million to £3.9 million, and pre-tax profits dropped from £27.2 million to £17.5 million. Earnings slipped from 3.4p to 1.6p a share, which just covers the maintained 1.6p interim dividend.

The main reason for the profits downturn was the performance of Silo, the American company, where weaknesses were exposed by the recession. A £2.3 million loss grew to a £10.9 million loss in the first half, prompting the board to set up a new retail management group, which is now responsible for turning Silo round.

Property trade also had a quiet first half, with profits falling from £9.8 million to £3.1 million. However, Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman, had expected that result. Fewer properties were sold in the first half, although profits were good on those that were sold. The Beaulieu office development in Brussels is nearly finished and has been pre-let to the European Commission. The sale of the building is expected to raise Dixons' profits by about £10 million in the next financial year.

The 12p rise in the share price to 204p yesterday reflected a rise in City confidence in the business. The shares are still 70p off their high for the last 12 months but are trading on 17 times earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £75 million for this year. The rating is 12 times 1992-3 earnings. The shares are worth buying for the inevitable recovery in the business.

Misys books its place for the tourist upturn

TOURISTS are not yet booking into hotels as they used to, but Misys, a computer systems and services group, thinks it might not be too long before they do.

Misys has, therefore, bought Innside International, a software and computer services company serving the UK hotel market, for £3.5 million. Part of the package is the assumption of £1.7 million of debt. The purchase is at seven times historic earnings, and Innside should prove earnings-positive in the first year.

Misys is funding the deal by placing 1.82 million shares at 195p each. Innside's pre-interest profits were held back by overseas difficulties in the year to the end of February, 1990, and should have been £700,000, instead of £441,000 as reported. The business's previous problems have been resolved, however, and profits are heading towards £1 million for the year ending next month.

Misys, under the chairmanship of Kevin Lomax, has bounced back from earlier depressed profit levels and has hoisted the pre-tax



Lomax: bounced back

figure for the half-year to November 30 from £1.52 million to £3.59 million. The interim dividend rises from 2.16p to 2.27p. The group had net cash balances of £7.4 million on November 30 and remains in a buying mood. Likely pre-tax profits of £8.5 million to May 31, against £5.6 million last time, put the shares, at 204p, on a prospective multiple of 2.5. Any improvement in the economy will have a decided impact on Misys's net earnings.

The shares are worth holding.

US firmness helps index to more than halve loss

THE equity market suffered another day of violent fluctuations as it attempted to come to terms with a steady trickle of gloomy news on the international and economic fronts. The FT-SE 100 index was down more than 40 points in early trading, but a firm start on Wall Street enabled it to rally and reduce the deficit to 15.8 at 2,467.1 by the close. Some 505 million shares changed hands, but trading was described as thin. Most of the institutions have still to decide their future strategy in the wake of the market's strong run over Christmas and the new year.

Market-makers were forced to mark prices lower at first on the back of disappointing performances overnight in New York and Tokyo. The fall in the Dow Jones industrial average was prompted by claims that one big company was about to file for bankruptcy protection.

The pound's continuing weakness against the mark also gave cause for concern, leaving government securities nursing falls of 4% at the longer end. The news that President Bush had collapsed at a banquet in Tokyo also affected sentiment. Fund managers are now resigning themselves to the possibility of further violent fluctuations in the market-place in the weeks to come unless there is a significant improvement in the economic outlook.

In the meantime, the international trading group, rose 5p to 390p as earnings placed the rumour of the 10 million shares stemming from the group's cash-raising operation to finance the acquisition of TKM.

Guinness fell 13p to 538p after becoming the latest victim of profit downgrades by brokers. Cazenove, a joint broker to Guinness, has reduced its forecast for 1992 by £30 million to £1.08 billion —



just a shade below the company's other broker, James Capel.

The rest of the drinks sector appeared mixed with Allied Lyons falling 12p to 630p, Vaux Group 3p to 210p, Whitbread's A shares 8p to 457p, and Wolverhampton & Dudley 4p to 554p. However, they were gains for Bass, 1p to £10.27p, Grand Metropolitan, 3p to 919p, Greene King, 6p to 447p, and Greenall, 1p to 381p.

Optimistic remarks from Dixons, the electrical retailer, lifted the shares 13p to 205p.

Hartstone, the hosiery and leather goods group, which is seeking £65 million by rights issue to finance the acquisition of two European companies, fell 3p to 257p. BZW placed £1,000 million shares at 12p. The shares belonged to Dorch Guinness, the company's former director. This means his holding has been reduced to below the disclosure limit. The nil-paid finished 2p lower at 14p.

Ratners regained some of its composure with a rise of 2p to 23p. The debt-laden group will give some indication of its Christmas trading tomorrow with some City analysts estimating that sales could be as much as 40 per cent down.

Meanwhile, there were losses for Argos, 2p to 250p, Body Shop, 9p to 328p, Clinton Cards, 12p to 78p, Great Universal Stores A, 13p to £13.45, Marks and Spencer, 1p to 272p, Sears, 2p to

92p and WH Smith A, 6p to 417p. Burton fell 1p to 35p amid claims that a line of 5 million shares was overhanging the market.

Worries about a price war continued to cast a shadow over the holiday companies. Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, announced substantial price cuts this week. Adriano, which had been traded at more than £9 last month, fell 14p to 813p, while Owners Abroad lost 5p to 98p.

The banking sector was still worried about bad debts.

ICL rallied to close 14p lower at £11.67, having been down 28p.

Wellcome lost a further 10p to £10.08, making a two-day deficit of 54p, with some analysts still claiming the shares are overvalued. Glaxo added 22p to 885p, while SmithKline Beecham A reversed a 14p deficit to end 1p firmer at 906p.

Bespak, the fast-growing maker of aerosol valves and other specialised components for the pharmaceutical industry, continued to buck the trend with a 46 per cent advance in first-half profits.

Bespak saw its shares advance a further 11p to 530p, compared with last June's rights price of 315p.

Sun Alliance, Britain's biggest composite insurer, was 10p adrift at 280p, despite the news of expansion through an agreed £72 million offer for Norway's Forenede Gruppen.

— MICHAEL CLARE

TOKYO

Nikkei falls 851 points in thin trade

Tokyo — Shares plunged to close at the day's low. The Nikkei index fell 851.39 points, or 3.61 per cent, to 22,715.00 in its biggest single-day drop since August 19, or "Red Monday", the day of the abortive Moscow coup.

Turnover fell to about 200 million shares compared with 220 million on Tuesday.

Tighter short-term interest rates and an absence of fresh buying incentives undermined sentiment as selling by investment trusts and arbitrage unwinding hammered prices. Tadashi Kawakami,

of Merrill Lynch, said: "Index selling is going on across the board and this easily brings the Nikkei down in such thin volume. Bearish sentiment is gaining ground as people focus again on the poor prospects for economic recovery."

The Nikkei opened 26.86 points below its close on Tuesday, ignoring Wall Street's overnight gains to drift steadily lower in thin, futures-dominated trading.

One broker said that everything had been taken into account by the market — last week's cut in discount rate,

the stronger yen and President Bush's visit to Japan.

Broken said that rumours of a fresh financial scandal, involving top politicians and a parcel distribution company, helped to push prices lower. The Nikkei is now 268.77 points below its close on December 30, when the Bank of Japan's decision to cut its discount rate helped trigger a rally. Brokers said that this week's visit by Mr Bush had no direct impact on the market. "But it is making investors focus on the depressed state of the US economy

and the impact on Japanese exports," one added. Domestic institutional investors were keen to sell at present price levels before the end-of-year book-closing in March.

□ Singapore — Prices closed mostly lower on profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1,494.55, down 6.54 points.

□ Sydney — The market drifted lower after trading in a tight range, oblivious to a one percentage point cut in official interest rates. The all-ordinaries index closed 4.3 lower at 1,663.4. (Reuters)

Dow bounces back

New York — Blue chips moved higher in the morning after buy programmes and bargain-hunting erased earlier losses. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 7.17 points to 3,212 after recovering from an early low of 3,186. Shares had opened lower amid fears about President Bush's health and steep share losses overseas.

□ Hong Kong — Prices finished lower as profit-taking, triggered by Tokyo's 851-point fall, overcame early selective buying, brokers said.

The Hang Seng index fell 10.26 points to 4,337.67 after rising to a daytime high of 4,373.66 in the mid-morning. The broader-based Hong Kong index fell 7.53 points to end at 2,831.43.

□ Frankfurt — Shares ended a quiet day 0.9 per cent lower. The Dax index ended 13.72 lower at 1,578.73. (Reuters)

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Holding fast on sterling

There is nothing particularly surprising about the increasingly explicit admissions by the Chancellor and the prime minister that their autumn forecasts of recovery in the British economy were over-optimistic. Official forecasts were ahead of most private projections at the time and the gap has widened since. The significance of official discomfort, especially in election year, lies in the foreign exchange market. The more stupid it becomes, for the British economy, to raise sterling interest rates, the more currency traders wonder whether the government would really undermine any recovery in business or its own electoral chances, for however short a period, to support sterling within the ERM. Repeated clear assurances of the government's commitment to existing rates are to some extent offset by diverse calls for devaluation or exit from the ERM.

Sterling now appears to be at rock bottom in its ERM bands, but this is not yet a critical point. Against the mark, rather than the ERM currencies as a whole, the pound is well within its absolute limit, with more than 2 per cent to go before intervention becomes necessary. Under the ERM rules, however, all the rates count and the rate against the peseta, as ever at the top of the league, determines the effective floor against the mark.

The peseta, rather than the pound, should be regarded as the odd man out. The Spanish currency, backed by many forecasts for a substantial fall eventually, is still subject to exchange controls, most of which are to be abolished next month. Since Spaniards will then be able to borrow as well as deposit abroad, abolition may make little difference. For the moment, however, the peseta's value remains artificial. If the Bank of England applied any quantity of the \$43 billion reserves to selling pesetas for pounds, the gap would rapidly diminish. That is not done, simply because there is not a sufficiently liquid market, which makes equal nonsense of the limit. If sterling were really in danger, these artificial elements in the ERM should be challenged before the Bank of England needs to spend reserves seriously.

Paper money

Estonia is giving an admirable example of currency self-help to its bigger neighbours in the former Soviet Union. Having decided to replace the rouble with the kroon, probably some time in the spring, the tiny Baltic republic has set about creating reserves, to back its new money, with ingenuity. First came the successful campaign by the three Baltic states to reclaim their pre-war gold, of which Estonia's share is thought to be about \$120 million. Now the central bank plans to mobilise the country's plentiful softwood forests, making the kroon potentially the ultimate paper currency. The simple idea is that Estonia will borrow about \$150 million of hard foreign currencies in loans secured on about 2 per cent of its forests.

There is nothing new about companies, particularly oil and mining groups, borrowing on "tonnage" debentures secured on the mineral resource to be developed. Nations starting with state ownership of resources are in an excellent position to do the same. Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States need a rouble stabilisation fund on a completely different scale from Estonia. Since they have proportionately as well as absolutely far greater natural resources, including much gold and the world's biggest natural gas reserves, there is surely no need to rely too heavily on international institutions and Western largesse.

Philip Bassett

examines the insistent logic behind British Steel's decision to close its Scottish strip mill by next September

In a rare public recognition of a workforce campaign against a threatened industrial closure, Tommy Brennan, the union convenor who led the fight against the shutting of the Ravenscraig steelworks, was last week awarded an MBE in the new year honours list. Yesterday the death knell of the plant he had fought so long to save was finally sounded by British Steel.

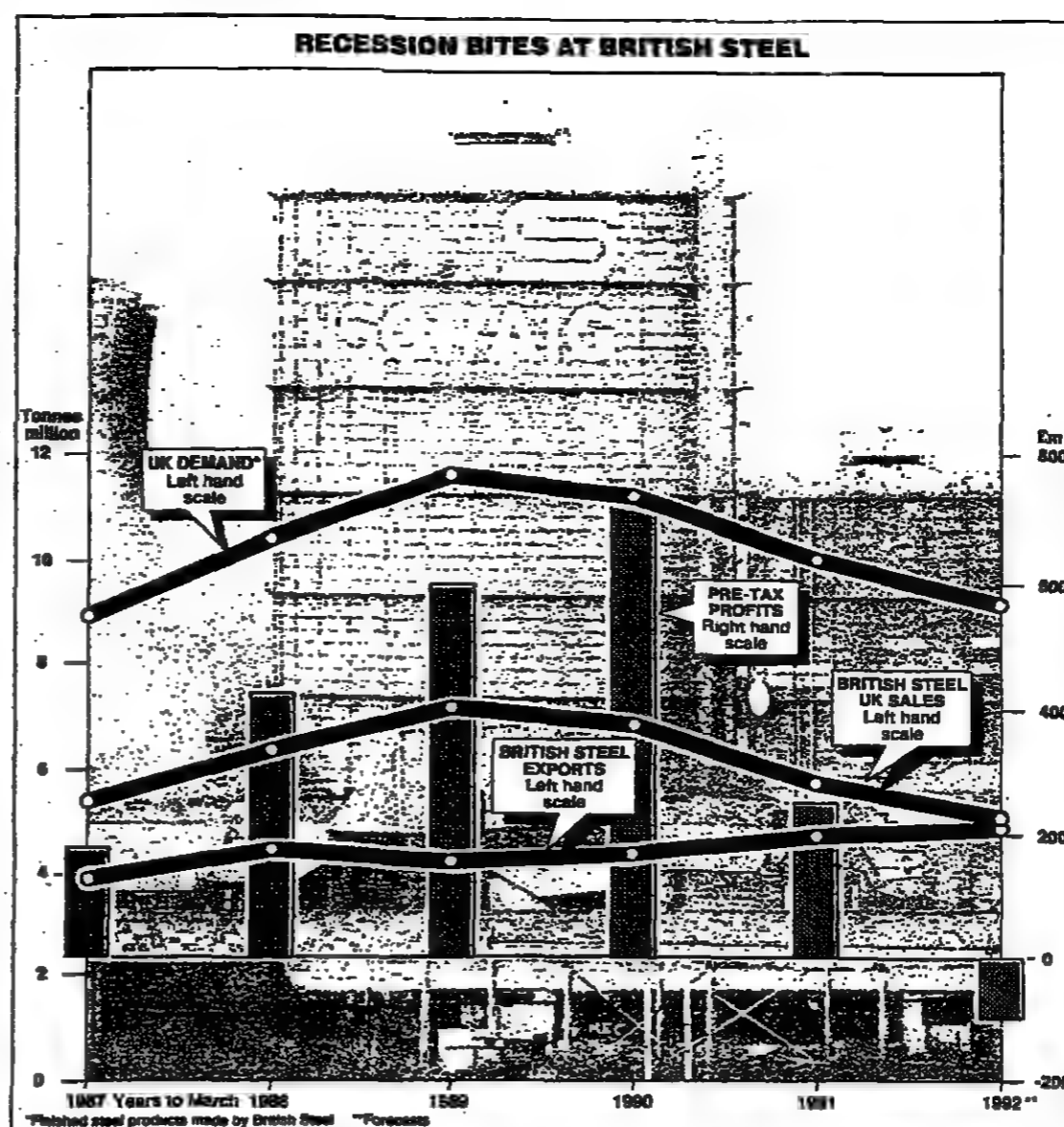
In the end, the only surprise in yesterday's announcement was the timing of the closure: in September, rather than in 1994. But the fact that the Craig not only would go, but had to go, has been painfully apparent for years.

Some in the steel industry, including many senior managers in British Steel itself, believe that the seeds of Ravenscraig's closure have been germinating for even longer—virtually since the plant was first opened in 1963, if not before. The long-term future of the Craig has probably always been in doubt. The plant's establishment was the result of an unhappy compromise in the history of now-discredited post-war governments' centralised industrial planning. As Conservative prime minister, Harold Macmillan twisted the arm of the then private steel industry to build not the one large integrated steel plant it wanted, but two medium-sized works, one at Llanwern in South Wales, and the other at Ravenscraig, in Lanarkshire, southwest of Glasgow.

The plan was for Ravenscraig to supply new industries also backed by the government, including the Linwood car factory and the Invergordon aluminium smelter. Both are now closed, along with shipbuilding and other major customers of Ravenscraig, meaning that by the time of British Steel's privatisation in 1988, only 4 per cent of Ravenscraig's output was used in Scotland. Distance from its customers became an increasing handicap.

That British Steel was strategically withdrawing from Scotland was undeniable well before yesterday's announcement about Ravenscraig. Last year BS closed both the Clyde-dale tube works, at Bellshill, and Ravenscraig's hot strip mill, with the loss of 1,200 and 800 jobs respectively. Though BS stressed yesterday that its plate-making works at Dalzell would be unaffected by the Ravenscraig closure, its future is clearly uncertain, given BS's declared intention to build a new \$400 million plate mill on Teesside.

The industrial logic of closing Ravenscraig, which 15 years ago employed 13,000 but which is now down to the 1,200 who will directly lose their jobs as a result of the announcement, had become grindingly inevitable and, despite the public outcry resulting from the



decision, was both largely expected and accepted. Archie Bethel, chief executive of the Lanarkshire Development Agency, has said: "I think most people now accept that this kind of manufacturing is a thing of the past, and we must look for new ways of making a living."

The government's quick move yesterday to promise extra help for Lanarkshire, and to press within the EC for it to be given enterprise zone status, will add to the measures already taken in the area by the

British Steel, which once employed more than 250,000 workers, will have fewer than 47,000 following the Craig's closure

development agency and by British Steel itself. BS's social assistance and redeployment arm, to look for new jobs for the area.

But it will be hard. A decade ago, the steel towns of Consett, Corby and Shotton were all devastated by closures. All have fought hard for new work, with considerable success. That much further north, that much further away from the economic engine of the heart of the EC,

and in the midst of a severe recession, Lanarkshire will clearly find it even harder to get anything to begin to replace the Craig. The development agency's estimates of a knock-on effect on jobs of up to 16,000 in the area may be on the high side; many subcontractors and suppliers, aware of the likely closure, have for some time been desperately looking for new contracts. Clearly, however, the impact will still be huge.

Sir Bob Scholey, BS's abrasive chairman, knows that. A widely-criticised figure in Scotland, not just for his closure decisions but for his refusal to explain or justify publicly BS's stance, "Black Bob" is aware of how hard the Scottish closures have hit. There is an idea that "I'm a Saddam Hussein running this job", he told *The Scotsman* newspaper.

But faced with the pressures on BS, Sir Bob explained to Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, when he told him on Monday of the closure plan, that BS had no choice. While regretting the impact of the decision, ministers, led by John Major, have queued up to make clear their acceptance of the BS case for closure based on its analysis and forecasts of domestic and international markets for steel strip products.

The figures BS has shown to the government remain confidential, but the current toughness of the steel market is hardly in doubt. After

years of EC protection, which many argued simply resulted in far too many high-cost steel producers, steel companies across Europe have been hit by a downward spiral of lower production volumes, a vicious price war and evaporating profits.

Widely regarded as Europe's financially strongest producer, BS has only held that place by being in the forefront of cost-cutting with the aim as far as possible of maintaining profitability and market share; the Ravenscraig decision is clearly

This kind of manufacturing is a thing of the past and we must look for new ways of making a living

an indicator of its intention to remain there. But analysts are forecasting that BS could make a whole-year loss this year of up to £100 million, after reporting in November that its pre-tax profits for the first half had collapsed from £307 million to just £19 million.

This financial core to British Steel's argument for closing Ravenscraig will not save it, though, from the political future over the guar-

tees that were given over keeping it open. There were two: one was from George Younger, then Scottish secretary, in 1984, of a 10-year guarantee of the plant's life. Like his successor, Malcolm Rifkind, he fought a tough battle to keep the Craig open; inevitably, Mr Lang will be blamed for failing to match the success of his predecessors.

Political guarantees last only as long as the politicians. Of greater difficulty for BS will be its own guarantee, reported to the House of Commons in December 1987, that it would maintain production at Ravenscraig until the end of 1994, or failing that, indicate its willingness to sell. Gordon Brown, Labour's energetic industry spokesman, leapt on the point yesterday—though he was cannily careful to make no pledges that a Labour government, which might come to power before Ravenscraig's closure, would try to alter the closure plan.

BS is likely to meet the point by stressing that its guarantees were conditional: that built into every statement about Ravenscraig was the rider that keeping the plant open until 1994 could only be guaranteed if market conditions justified it, and as its terse statement announcing the closure put it yesterday, the current market of "continuing deep global recession and general price weakness" meant that the Craig's time has come. When Ravenscraig finally shuts its gates in the autumn, and the accompanying Hunterston port is sold, BS will concentrate its steelmaking efforts on its remaining principal sites at Llanwern and Port Talbot in South Wales, Redcar on Teesside and Scunthorpe on south Humberside. BS, which once employed more than 250,000 workers, will have fewer than 47,000 following the closure of Ravenscraig.

Local authorities, trade unions and the Labour party may well try to remount the long-running campaign to keep Ravenscraig open now that BS has finally bitten the closure bullet. But their hearts will not be much in it, despite the social damage the closure will cause. They know that the record of opposition to closures over the last decade has not been a successful one; few, if any, industrial plants threatened with closure have been kept open by campaigns of opposition, no matter how sophisticated they have been.

Potential campaigners, too, have seen the inevitable delayed for too long. In the case of the Craig, they have painfully in their minds a report, completed last year by consultants Arthur D Little and originally commissioned by Malcolm Rifkind as Scottish secretary, which could find little if any case for the plant being kept open.

Now that the decision to close the Craig has finally been taken, BS is unlikely to back away from it. The days of steelmaking in Scotland are now over. The killing of the Craig marks the final move for Scotland from being an area of heavy, bedrock industry. Against the challenges of the Japanese, the Koreans and the Brazilians, it also marks British Steel's continuing drive to try to remain a player in the world steel industry.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Belt 'n' braces for CBI hunt

MORE than 100 applicants have already responded to the high profile advertisements in the quality national press for a new director general of the Confederation of British Industry. The post is being advertised publicly for the first time although candidates are also being sought via head-hunting. "It was a strong recommendation of ours to the CBI that we should use both methods, given the uniqueness of the job," says David Norman, aged 50, chairman of Norman Broadbent, the recruitment consultant involved. He anticipates having a new candidate signed up within three months, ready to take over from Sir John Banham when he retires in July. The candidate is, says Norman, likely to be from a manufacturing industry, with a successful record and a good communicator. Norman would ideally like him—or her—to be, at present, "the chief executive of a major British company," although he admits that the salary will be closer to £100,000 than £500,000. "But you never know," he says, "at certain moments in people's lives they feel that they want to do something for the good of the country rather than just for the good of themselves." In order to attain that state of mind you must, Norman believes, be at least 40 years old. Here he speaks from experience. When he was 34 he was headhunted for the DG's job, but turned the offer down because he was below the minimum specified age.

AN ART shop in Burwood, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia, is called Framed and Hung.

Chill blast for Bass

WHILE his mother, the sculptress Faith Winter, is waiting to learn whether or not the Queen Mother will, after all, unveil her 9ft bronze statue of "Bomber" Harris outside St Clement's Dane Church at the end of May—following complaints from our fellow Europeans that the Germans, that he masterminded the carpet bombing of Dresden in World War II, the Queen Mother is understood to be taking advice—Maurice Winter, aged 37, has been exercising his efforts in an entirely different area. Winter, a senior venture capital partner with Gresham Street law firm Biddle & Co, and the prospective Conservative candidate for the marginal south London seat of Tooting, is used to advising company directors, behind the scenes, about their various legal positions. Taking an unusually public stance, however, Winter is planning to

take to the floor at the upcoming Bass annual meeting, to suggest that since the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is forcing the company to reduce its public house estate from 2,700 to 2,000, one of the first to go should be the Baltham Hotel, within his prospective constituency and closed for business since a police raid in November. "I think Bass plans to reopen it but local people would like to see it shut down for good," says Winter. "It would make a nice wine bar or it could be used for some sort of leisure activity." The Bass board could, of course, view a suitably benevolent gesture as an alternative to a donation to Tory funds.

Own goal

IS THERE no stopping Sir John Hall, the coal-miner's son turned millionaire who is hailed as the uncrowned king of Tyneside? Sir John, who developed Gateshead's Metro—the largest out of town shopping complex in Europe—and is one of Britain's richest men, has won the chairmanship of Newcastle United after a long battle and must now be wondering what he has let himself in for. He gave warning this week-end that the club is facing interest payments of £600,000 a year on its £4 million of bank borrowings, and may collapse altogether if it cannot come up with £1.25 million in the next two weeks. Sir John, who has spent at least £2 million buying shares in Newcastle United and has a personal fortune estimated at £70 million, has just won planning permission to create a £500 million business park

and housing development on his 6,500-acre Wyndyrd Park estate near Billingham, Cleveland.

Many tanks

VICKERS scored several brownie points with John Major on Tuesday—a feat of particular merit to any defence contractor—when, as he and wife Norma toured its Armstrong tank works in Newcastle, Gerry Boxall, chief executive of Vickers Defence Systems, presented him with a miniature brass cricket bat. On one side was engraved "Operation Desert Storm" and on the other "Challenger 1: 221 not out", referring, of course, to the fact that all of Vickers Challenger 1 tanks returned from the Gulf war undamaged. So delighted was cricket mad Major with the trophy that he summoned his wife to examine its inscription. Boxall, known since the Gulf war as the "Field Marshal" for his efforts during the campaign, deemed to be well beyond the call of corporate duty.

Grounded

CREDITORS of Asil Nadir, former chairman of Polly Peck International, are puzzled at the sudden hibernation of Noble Air, his private Turkish airline. Noble, which includes London and Amsterdam on its routes, has grounded its planes until mid-March, a spokesman said, because "there is no point in flying empty planes." Meanwhile the Turkish press is buzzing with rumours about what is to happen to the airline.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Redefining pensions

From Mr R.A. Hammond-Chambers

Sir, Despite implications to the contrary, Sean Hand's recommendations of more law and more regulation (January 3) will not make pension funds foolproof from future premeditated pilfering. There exists quite enough law and regulation, although some could be improved. The basic conflict between employer and beneficiary lies in the "defined benefits" nature of pension funds: a switch to a "defined contribution" system would do much to resolve such conflict.

Yours faithfully, ALEX HAMMOND-CHAMBERS, Grange Dell, Penicuik, Midlothian.

NI underpins commitment to unemployed

From Mr J. Shapiro

Sir, Mr Shedden and Dr Eamonn Butler must be living elsewhere and not in Britain. The tax payer's commitment to the unemployed is underpinned by the National Insurance every employee pays. If an insurance company had received premiums over a number of years and then dealt with the policy holder when a claim is made in the manner suggested by Mr Shedden and Mr Butler, then the public would rightly claim that the National Insurance premiums had been

taken on a false premise.

The other false assumption is that there is work available for those claiming unemployment benefit. The registered unemployed number over 2½ million but the unregistered, those not receiving benefit, number at least as many again. Are we to assume that they are all work dodgers? The fact is that more jobs are being destroyed in the recession than are created.

Yours faithfully, JACK SHAPIRO, 100 Brim Hill, Harpenden Garden Suburb, NZ.

Spoilt statistic

From the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress

Sir, Your report "TUC calls for black and female delegates" (January 6) contains one important error. Of the 528 monitoring forms re-

turned by delegates to our 1991 Congress none was completely spoilt (not 119 as your report states).

Yours sincerely, NORMAN WILLIS, Trades Union Congress, Congress House, Great Russell Street, WC1.

Beating the banks

From Mr A.R. de L. Wilde

Sir, Sable Farshaw wonders (Business News, January 2) why banks do not print interest rates on bank statements in order to avoid the prohibitive costs of sending out notices to all their customers every time they change the interest rates on deposits.

Banks may not do this, but the simple solution proposed is followed by at least one building society, Northern Rock, of Newcastle, which does exactly this and has done so for some time. This is a further example of societies offering advantages in service, flexibility and interest rates over the rather tradition-bound clearing banks.

Yours faithfully, A.R. de L. Wilde, 12 Lyme Street, Camden, NW1.

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Portfolio

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No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	BM Co	Industrial	
2	McCarthy & S	Chemicals	
3	Yule Carr	Building, Plastics	
4	Indecap	Industrial	
5	Claremont Co	Textiles	
6	WPP	Paper, Print	
7	Green King	Beverages	
8	Wyle	Drugs, Retail	
9	Pentam	Building, Retail	
10	Electronics	Electrical	
11	Granada	Industrial	
12	Rainers Group	Drugs, Retail	
13	Fairly Group	Industrial	
14	Burnell Bros	Beverages	
15	Macmillan Rep	Electrical	
16	Wentworth	Textiles	
17	Avonmouth	Chemicals	
18	Maplewood (A&I)	Property	
19	Whitson	Industrial	
20	Horne (Philip)	Industrial	
21	Exams Of Leeds	Property	
22	Island Farm	Foods	
23	Arjo Wiggins	Paper, Print	
24	Nat West	Bank, Retail	
25	Griffin	Property	
26	Aradon	Property	
27	St Ives Co	Paper, Print	
28	Ud Newspapers	Newspaper, Pub	
29	Hilldown	Foods	
30	Hutch Whamp	Industrial	
31	Midland	Bank, Retail	
32	Pharm-Me	Industrial	
33	Kingfisher	Drugs, Retail	
34	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	
35	Euromed Int	Transport	
36	SA Breweries	Beverages	
37	LWT Co	Leisure	
38	Curry's	Oil, Gas	
39	De La Rue	Industrial	
40	Grindall	Industrial	
41	Blair	Paper, Print	
42	Waddington (D)	Paper, Print	
43	Soc TV	Leisure	
44	Hoe Of Lanes	Drugs, Retail	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1991/92 High Low Company Price % Chg % Yr % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
311	311	311	Abbey Nat	311	-	3.4	8.2
312	312	312	Abbey Nat	312	-	3.4	8.2
313	313	313	Abbey Nat	313	-	3.4	8.2
314	314	314	Abbey Nat	314	-	3.4	8.2
315	315	315	Abbey Nat	315	-	3.4	8.2
316	316	316	Abbey Nat	316	-	3.4	8.2
317	317	317	Abbey Nat	317	-	3.4	8.2
318	318	318	Abbey Nat	318	-	3.4	8.2
319	319	319	Abbey Nat	319	-	3.4	8.2
320	320	320	Abbey Nat	320	-	3.4	8.2

BREWERS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
400	400	400	Abbey Nat	400	-	3.4	8.2
401	401	401	Abbey Nat	401	-	3.4	8.2
402	402	402	Abbey Nat	402	-	3.4	8.2
403	403	403	Abbey Nat	403	-	3.4	8.2
404	404	404	Abbey Nat	404	-	3.4	8.2
405	405	405	Abbey Nat	405	-	3.4	8.2
406	406	406	Abbey Nat	406	-	3.4	8.2
407	407	407	Abbey Nat	407	-	3.4	8.2
408	408	408	Abbey Nat	408	-	3.4	8.2
409	409	409	Abbey Nat	409	-	3.4	8.2

BUILDING, ROADS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
40	40	40	Abbey Nat	40	-	3.4	8.2
41	41	41	Abbey Nat	41	-	3.4	8.2
42	42	42	Abbey Nat	42	-	3.4	8.2
43	43	43	Abbey Nat	43	-	3.4	8.2
44	44	44	Abbey Nat	44	-	3.4	8.2
45	45	45	Abbey Nat	45	-	3.4	8.2
46	46	46	Abbey Nat	46	-	3.4	8.2
47	47	47	Abbey Nat	47	-	3.4	8.2
48	48	48	Abbey Nat	48	-	3.4	8.2
49	49	49	Abbey Nat	49	-	3.4	8.2

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
97	97	97	Abbey Nat	97	-	3.4	8.2
98	98	98	Abbey Nat	98	-	3.4	8.2
99	99	99	Abbey Nat	99	-	3.4	8.2
100	100	100	Abbey Nat	100	-	3.4	8.2
101	101	101	Abbey Nat	101	-	3.4	8.2
102	102	102	Abbey Nat	102	-	3.4	8.2
103	103	103	Abbey Nat	103	-	3.4	8.2
104	104	104	Abbey Nat	104	-	3.4	8.2
105	105	105	Abbey Nat	105	-	3.4	8.2
106	106	106	Abbey Nat	106	-	3.4	8.2

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
107	107	107	Abbey Nat	107	-	3.4	8.2
108	108	108	Abbey Nat	108	-	3.4	8.2
109	109	109	Abbey Nat	109	-	3.4	8.2
110	110	110	Abbey Nat	110	-	3.4	8.2
111	111	111	Abbey Nat	111	-	3.4	8.2
112	112	112	Abbey Nat	112	-	3.4	8.2
113	113	113	Abbey Nat	113	-	3.4	8.2
114	114	114	Abbey Nat	114	-	3.4	8.2
115	115	115	Abbey Nat	115	-	3.4	8.2
116	116	116	Abbey Nat	116	-	3.4	8.2

LONGS (over 15 years)

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
117	117	117	Abbey Nat	117	-	3.4	8.2
118	118	118	Abbey Nat	118	-	3.4	8.2
119	119	119	Abbey Nat	119	-	3.4	8.2
120	120	120	Abbey Nat	120	-	3.4	8.2
121	121	121	Abbey Nat	121	-	3.4	8.2
122	122	122	Abbey Nat	122	-	3.4	8.2
123	123	123	Abbey Nat	123	-	3.4	8.2
124	124	124	Abbey Nat	124	-	3.4	8.2
125	125	125	Abbey Nat	125	-	3.4	8.2
126	126	126	Abbey Nat	126	-	3.4	8.2

Shares end well above lows

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 30. Dealings end tomorrow. Contango day January 13. Settlement day January 20. Share prices are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991/92 High Low Company Price % Chg % Yr % P/E

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
4073	4073	4073	Abbey Nat	4073	-	3.4	8.2
4074	4074	4074	Abbey Nat	4074	-	3.4	8.2
4075	4075	4075	Abbey Nat	4075	-	3.4	8.2
4076	4076	4076	Abbey Nat	4076	-	3.4	8.2
4077	4077	4077	Abbey Nat	4077	-	3.4	8.2
4078	4078	4078	Abbey Nat	4078	-	3.4	8.2
4079	4079	4079	Abbey Nat	4079	-	3.4	8.2
4080	4080	4080	Abbey Nat	4080	-	3.4	8.2
4081	4081	4081	Abbey Nat	4081	-	3.4	8.2
4082	4082	4082	Abbey Nat	4082	-	3.4	8.2

ELECTRICITY

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
205	205	205	Abbey Nat	205	-	3.4	8.2
206	206	206	Abbey Nat	206	-	3.4	8.2
207	207	207	Abbey Nat	207	-	3.4	8.2
208	208	208	Abbey Nat	208	-	3.4	8.2
209	209	209	Abbey Nat	209	-	3.4	8.2
210	210	210	Abbey Nat	210	-	3.4	8.2
211	211	211	Abbey Nat	211	-	3.4	8.2
212	212	212	Abbey Nat	212	-	3.4	8.2
213	213	213	Abbey Nat	213	-	3.4	8.2
214	214	214	Abbey Nat	214	-	3.4	8.2

FINANCE, LAND

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
41	41	41	Abbey Nat	41	-	3.4	8.2
42	42	42	Abbey Nat	42	-	3.4	8.2
43	43	43	Abbey Nat	43	-	3.4	8.2
44	44	44	Abbey Nat	44	-	3.4	8.2
45	45	45	Abbey Nat	45	-	3.4	8.2
46	46	46	Abbey Nat	46	-	3.4	8.2
47	47	47	Abbey Nat	47	-	3.4	8.2
48	48	48	Abbey Nat	48	-	3.4	8.2
49	49	49	Abbey Nat	49	-	3.4	8.2
50	50	50	Abbey Nat	50	-	3.4	8.2

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
1797	1797	1797	Abbey Nat	1797	-	3.4	8.2
1798	1798	1798	Abbey Nat	1798	-	3.4	8.2
1799	1799	1799	Abbey Nat	1799	-	3.4	8.2
1800	1800	1800	Abbey Nat	1800	-	3.4	8.2
1801	1801	1801	Abbey Nat	1801	-	3.4	8.2
1802	1802	1802	Abbey Nat	1802	-	3.4	8.2
1803	1803	1803	Abbey Nat	1803	-	3.4	8.2
1804	1804	1804	Abbey Nat	1804	-	3.4	8.2
1805	1805	1805	Abbey Nat	1805	-	3.4	8.2
1806	1806	1806	Abbey Nat	1806	-	3.4	8.2

FOODS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
43	43	43	Abbey Nat	43	-	3.4	8.2
44	44	44	Abbey Nat	44	-	3.4	8.2
45	45	45	Abbey Nat	45	-	3.4	8.2
46	46	46	Abbey Nat	46	-	3.4	8.2
47	47	47	Abbey Nat	47	-	3.4	8.2
48	48	48	Abbey Nat	48	-	3.4	8.2
49	49	49	Abbey Nat	49	-	3.4	8.2
50	50	50	Abbey Nat	50	-	3.4	8.2
51	51	51	Abbey Nat	51	-	3.4	8.2
52	52	52	Abbey Nat	52	-	3.4	8.2

ELECTRICALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Yr	% P/E
151	151	151	Abbey Nat	151	-	3.4	8.2
152	152	152	Abbey Nat	152	-	3.4	8.2
153	153	153	Abbey Nat	153	-	3.4	8.2
154	154	154	Abbey Nat	154	-	3.4	8.2
155	155	155	Abbey Nat	155	-	3.4	8.2
156	156	156	Abbey Nat	156	-	3.4	8.2
157	157	157	Abbey Nat	157	-	3.4	8.2
158	158	158	Abbey Nat	158	-	3.4	8.2
159	159	159	Abbey Nat	159	-	3.4	8.2
160	160	160	Abbey Nat	160	-	3.4	8.2

HOTELS, CATERERS

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071-481 4481

ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE

071-481 9313
071-782 7828COMMERCIAL AUDIT
Assistant Manager

To £33k + Car West London

The European Head Office of this major international food group accommodates the European Special Projects and Audit Team. Geared to assessing business risks, appraising acquisitions, tackling European projects and reviewing operational efficiency, the team is highly visible, young and commercial in approach. Due to promotion, the company must now recruit a qualified Accountant, under 33 years, with excellent presentation skills, able to demonstrate business acumen and management potential. The ability to communicate in a 2nd European language would increase the opportunity to work on overseas assignments (50% travel maximum).

Having progressed to Audit Manager within 6-9 months, you will use the position as a stepping stone to subsidiary Controllership or senior line management. Interested applicants, available for shortlist interviews, should contact us on 071 721 7283 or, during the evenings or weekends, on 081 090 9910. Alternatively send or fax your CV to:

ALDERWICK
MELINTOCK

SEARCH & SELECTION
SUITE 305, BLACKHEATHS FOUNDRY,
156 BLACKHEATH ROAD, LONDON SE15 7BN
TELEPHONE: 071-721 7283 FACSIMILE: 071-721 7288

Product Manager
Government Bond Sales

Working within a busy and successful Department, the key focus of this role will be to product manage all government debt in Europe and the Middle East.

The candidate will be responsible for the distribution of US Treasury, Agencies and Zeros, working with generalist Fixed Income salespeople and retail branches of the organisation.

The candidate will be responsible for establishing and maintaining contact with key target accounts and ensuring effective product distribution and delivery to clients. They will be advising clients on the most cost effective methods of international financing, taking into account current market conditions and client ratings. They will be working closely with other capital market product specialists to communicate marketing opportunities and will also be responsible in developing subordinates.

The ideal applicant will be educated to MBA level, and would have at least 10 years high level experience of Government Bond Trading and Sales, both in Europe and the US.

Please send your curriculum vitae and current salary details to Box Number 6720 quoting the appropriate reference number.



Head Office

When the NRA was founded in 1989, England and Wales had - for the first time ever - an independent body responsible for protecting its rivers and coastal waters. Since then, we've made great progress in shaping our ten Regions into a single, cohesive body.

Our audit teams play an important role in this process, often undertaking audits in areas that have never been tackled before. Here, a pro-active approach and the capacity to think creatively are invaluable and we are now looking for professionals with those qualities to fill the following roles:

Area Audit Manager

Bristol

c.£27,000

In this role which reports to the Head of Internal Audit, you will have the opportunity to influence major decisions affecting the future of the NRA. In addition to managing and developing a team of five auditors, you will contribute to the development of an Audit Plan which reflects corporate objectives. Most importantly, you will be responsible for identifying the full implications of

operational reviews carried out by your team and for persuading senior management to implement recommendations.

Your professional qualification should be supported by experience either of internal audit or of managing professional staff to meet deadlines. An ability to maintain good working relationships with busy senior staff is essential.

Principal Auditor (Projects & Computing)

Bristol

£23,000 - £25,500

The large number of major computer developments underway within the organisation makes this a varied and challenging role. You will be involved in auditing applications and installations as well as undertaking post-implementation and security reviews. You will also carry out VFM reviews across the full range of

NRA activities. You should have a degree or appropriate professional qualification as well as experience in at least two of the following areas: systems/computer audit, VFM or operational audit, contract audit, or financial auditing. Strong interpersonal skills are essential.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with a large organisation, including a contributory lease car. Relocation assistance may be available, where appropriate. Both posts involve a considerable amount of travelling throughout England and Wales.

For an application form and further details, please phone 0454 624400 ext 4473 (answerphone). Completed applications should be returned no later than 24th January 1992.

NRA is an Equal Opportunities employer.

GROUP
ACCOUNTING

London c£32,000 + car + exp bens

An interesting new position has arisen within a well-known service group for a qualified accountant to join its small head office team.

The role will involve direct reporting issues, business planning, budgeting, forecasting, and analysis of the group and its competitors for senior management.

Candidates, aged 25-34, should have at least 2 years post qualification experience, preferably in the service or retail sector. Required qualities include an investigative and analytical mind, confidence, good communication skills and the ability to work to tight deadlines.

For further information, call John Connolly or Pegasus Society on 071-531-2323. To apply for the position fax your CV to: 071-404-8772 or send it to Hudson Shribman, Weybridge, Surrey, Middlesex, London W21A 2DB.

HUDSON SHRIBMAN

MANAGEMENT ROLE FOR
RECENTLY QUALIFIED ACA

North Kent

To £26500+Bens

Our client, is one of the fastest growing and most profitable financial services groups within the UK. Their continued plans for expansion has given rise to the need for an Operational Audit Manager.

This position, managing a staff of four operational auditors, reports to the chief internal auditor. As a new position it will combine the establishment of standards, with the management and control of operational audits, together with the training and development of staff.

The ideal candidate will be a newly or recently qualified graduate ACA from a 'Big 6' environment. Candidates with well developed technical and interpersonal skills and an ability to market both themselves and their department within the company are particularly sought.

This is a high profile and progressive position. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will grow into the position and then quickly gain promotion into other areas of the company.

The benefits package includes a subsidised mortgage and other financial sector benefits.

To apply, contact Adrian Simpson BSc ACA on 071 936 2601 (out of office hours 0784 490977) or write to him at the address below.

YOU COULDN'T TALK TO BETTER QUALIFIED PEOPLE

BARCLAY SIMPSON

HAMILTON HOUSE, 1 TEMPLE AVENUE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, LONDON EC4Y 0EA

071-936 2601

P/Q
BOOKKEEPER
ACCOUNTANT

c£25k

Surveyors W London

- must have similar experience.

Word Associates

071 377 6433 (AGV)

FAX 071 377 0768

Financial Controller

Central London

To £30,000 + discretionary bonus

Our client is a long established niche publishing business with clear market leadership. Following the appointment of a new managing director, there is a need to strengthen the management of the organisation through the recruitment of a Financial Controller.

Reporting to the Managing Director, this is seen as a key appointment to the management team and you will play a significant part in the commercial development of the business. Responsible for the day-to-day financial management of the company, your strong technical accounting skills will be of vital importance to the company's desire for greater efficiency through further improvements in management reporting and administrative procedures.

You must be confident and outgoing, with strong communication skills and be capable of quickly establishing a rapport with external advisers and colleagues alike. A qualified accountant in your mid-30s, you should have proven leadership qualities and be genuinely interested in the world of entertainment and publishing.

CLARK WHITEHILL
Search and Selection

Please reply in confidence to:
Stephen Williams or David Kennedy,
Clark Whitehill Consultants Limited,
25 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3LN.
Telephone 071 353 1577, Fax: 071 353 0525.

ACCOUNTANT

£35,000 + Profit Share + Car

We are a highly entrepreneurial company, who have established an extremely successful business operating in a niche market in the South of England.

We currently seek an experienced qualified Accountant to head our finance team and be responsible for the implementation and Financial Management of our new franchise operation.

Strong technical and inter-personal skills are essential and this role would ideally suit a commercial Accountant with previous knowledge of franchising.

Equity participation at 40% with potentially high rewards available to the successful applicant.

Interested parties should send a detailed CV to:

J K Associates Consultants
Waltham, 28 Outlands Close
Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9RY.

BRIGHTON

£25,000

Thrilling opportunity for ACA with minimum of three years post qualification experience within general practice. This medium sized firm with a wide range of clients seeks an ambitious, hard-working, with excellent technical, managerial and communication skills. You will enjoy a generous salary package and partnership prospects.

Contact: 1st Fl, 7-8 North St, Quadrant, Brighton, E. Sussex, BN1 3FA. 0273 267641

CROYDON

£25,000 + Car

Excellent opportunity in the Croydon area for a self motivated, dynamic young Accountant, with a proven track record of commercial awareness and achievement. Candidates will be computer literate, forward thinking self-starters with a hunger for producing results and success who perform well under pressure. Excellent prospects available in return for hard work and total commitment.

Contact: 33 George St, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 1LS. 081 686 4686

SOUTH EAST LONDON

International Flavour

Exceptional opportunity to join a progressive subsidiary of a major multi-national company. Reporting directly to the board this high profile role encompasses all aspects of financial management, systems development and offers an opportunity to contribute to major business decisions. Ideally you will be fully qualified, have well-developed communication skills and enjoy working in a demanding and stimulating environment.

Contact: Liverpool Victoria House, 18-23 Mason's Hall, Bromley, Kent, SE10 2ND. 081 484 8848

CRAWLEY

£15-17,000 + STUDY

Our client, a high technology manufacturing concern, has created a new position for a Part-qualified Accountant. Probably studying level II of ACCA/CIMA, you will have at least two years experience, preferably of management accounts, and a thorough working knowledge of spreadsheets. Your brief will be to monitor, control and analyse costs for individual business units. Highly competitive benefits package to include full study package, BUPA and pension scheme.

Contact: 40 The Broadway, Crawley, Sussex, RH10 1HG. 0293 551861

Accountancy Personnel

INTERNATIONAL TAX
AND TREASURY
ACCOUNTANT

BURREY £25,000+

International organisation,
Corporate/International
taxation, In-depth Treasury
knowledge, superb prospects.
081 686 4686 (Rec Cons)

PART QUALIFIED

Accountant required for excellent
posts in Central London and the
Home Counties. Acute powers,
confidence to qualify, with strong
technical skills and computer
experience are essential. Only
ACA/CIMA or their
equivalents need apply.
Contact the Accountancy
Division at Selection
(Recruitment) Ltd on
071-493 1712.

MWA has moved

Mark Wainwright Associates has moved to larger offices to handle the increasing number of assignments it is currently executing. This has been brought about by the quality and range of our services. The positions described below give an indication of the range of positions currently being handled.

Financial Services:

Product Accountant £27,000 + car
Several Commercial banks are seeking high calibre
people with experience to various products, such as
FX, Equities and Eurobonds, for analytical and
project based roles. These positions expose you
thoroughly to the Finance Market.

Management Accountant

£24,000 + bonus
This is an exciting opportunity giving exposure to a
high level of management, across a range of business
sectors. Principle duties include budget
preparation, management accounts and cost
reporting.

Experience our different approach to recruitment - you will notice the difference.

Contact us on 071-495 3676 (Even/Weekends 081-892 0164)

MARK WAINWRIGHT ASSOCIATES

FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

10 Maddox Street, London, W1 4PN. TEL: 071-495 3676 FAX: 071-495 3788

Commerce:

PA in European Finance Division £30-35,000 + car
Our client is a leading UK multinational, currently
seeking to strengthen its head office. Duties will
include planning, divisional analysis, and acquisition
appraisal. Fluency in a European language is needed,
combined with "commercial acumen".

Principal Accountant

£24,000 + car
A (3000) technology company is seeking a
ACMA/CIMA for an autonomous role as a (20th
subsidiary. Duties will include strategic planning,
forecasting, budget preparation and acting as the
P.A. to the Commercial Director.

NEWLY QUALIFIED
ACA/ACCA
TO £25,000
CORPORATE STRATEGY
CONSULTANCY (LONDON)

Due to a period of continued growth we are recruiting another
newly qualified accountant with strong accounting and
company skills to strengthen the existing team supporting the
firm's management and security requirements.

The LEK Partnership is a major international strategy consulting
firm. Started in 1983, the firm now has over 220 professionals in
eleven offices around the world.

The position will involve occasional travel within Europe and
offer excellent career prospects.

Please write enclosing a curriculum vitae to:

Lesley Whybrow
The LEK Partnership
The Adelphi Building
1-11 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6BW
No Agencies

LONDON-BOSTON-STOCKHOLM-AMSTERDAM-PARIS
COPENHAGEN-MILAN-STOCKHOLM-BELGIUM-OSLO

FINANCIAL ANALYST - PART QUALIFIED
FMCG CENTRAL LONDON
TO £21,000 + CAR

We have been retained on a sole agency basis by a leading, multi-
group to recruit an ambitious, Part-qualified Accountant to undertake a
challenging role within a fast-moving environment. This role will
involve a wide range of responsibilities including, but not limited to,
significant experience in cost accounting, budgeting, forecasting, and
analysis of the group and its competitors for senior management.
The successful candidate will be a motivated, self-starter with a proven
commitment to qualification, have a strong background and a proven
ability to communicate effectively with senior management and a proven
ability to work to tight deadlines. This is a fantastic opportunity to
develop your career and progress within this prestigious and non-
intensely competitive group is essential.

For further information please call DCA (Rec Cons) on 071 881 4447,
alternatively fax your CV on 071 430 1435 or write to: Wainwright House,
72/74 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS

David Chorley

ASSOCIATES

ALL BOX
NUMBER
REPLIES
SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No:
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WALTHAM FOREST COLLEGE
CAN YOU MANAGE
FINANCE?Salary: £24,572-£26,601 (Inclusive of
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We need an enthusiastic and innovative Manager for
a new post in this major centre for the provision of
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London.

The Finance Manager will be responsible to college
management for the provision of an efficient and
effective finance service for all sectors of the college.
A commitment to the development of computerised
information systems is essential.

The further education sector is the subject of
considerable change, which is both exciting and
challenging. These changes will have a direct impact
on the range of responsibilities of the Finance
Manager, and the team of staff that they will lead.
You must have a relevant professional qualification
and experience in working in a financial environment
in the private or public sector.

Application forms and further details are available
from the College Personnel Officer, Waltham Forest
College, Forest Road, Walthamstow E17 4JB (Tel.
081-527 2311, ext. 4259).

Closing date: January 24, 1992.

WALTHAM FOREST COLLEGE - WORKING
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(DESIGNATE)

'The Clothes Rail' is an expanding and
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We operate high quality retail outlets in
some of the finest locations in the U.K.

We now wish to appoint a Finance
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management team based in Weybridge,
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Our ideal candidate would be over 35
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In return, we will ensure that the bene-
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Apply with CV to: D. Rose (Vered
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Education is a priority within South West Thames RHA, one that annually
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of the Colleges.

A qualified Accountant with an honours degree, you should have the
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In addition to the competitive salary and lease car, we offer an excellent
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For an application form and job specification please contact HQ
Personnel, SWTRHA, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3QR. Telephone:
071-262 8011 ext: 4026 (ansaphone 8am - 6pm). Please quote Ref: 91/121/T.
Closing date: 24th January 1992.

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THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1992

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- ◆ A manager of real stature and achievement, widely respected and trusted.
- ◆ Exceptional communication skills as a speaker, broadcaster and writer.
- ◆ A leader with the desire and vision to serve. Unprejudiced, intelligent, independent and committed.
- ◆ Availability to assume the appointment no later than July 1992. The current Director General, John Banham, is leaving in mid 1992 after his 5 year appointment.

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To further enhance its enviable position as a significant competitor in the East Asian market, the Company is introducing a number of technological innovations including some unique product ranges.

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development and production resources, ensuring an ability to satisfy customers' needs; and you will be responsible for preparation of business plans to be presented to the Board.

Understanding and experience of the marketing of semiconductor products is absolutely essential. Specific experience in marketing ASICs would be advantageous, as would previous success in technical/operations management and personnel motivation.

In addition to a degree in a relevant discipline, and possibly an MBA or other marketing qualification, you will need to have that combination of leadership and business skills essential for success at this level. An innovative approach and commitment to achieve in a high profile role will distinguish the ideal candidate.

To apply, please write, in confidence, with full career details to Richard Knowles quoting reference number 53234, MSL Group Limited, Broad Quay House, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS1 4DJ.

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- Consistently over-achieving
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The work is difficult and demanding, although we try also to make it enjoyable. It is extremely rewarding, both professionally and financially. Please write to:

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- C. PASCAL, ADA and CORAL
- UNIX, ULTRIX, VMS and VOS
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- DECNET, TCP/IP and Token Ring

Applications cover all aspects of ATC systems, including: Workstation Display Information Systems, MMI Development, Flight Data Processing and Track Generators.

Software Engineers are required at all levels, who have experience of systems design and software development using modern methods and tools. In depth experience of at least 3 of the areas specified is essential.

Applicants must be qualified to degree level in an appropriate subject. Junior posts require 2-5 years' experience, while the more senior posts require 6-10 years' experience, coupled with team management and customer/supplier liaison skills.

We offer salary ranges up to the levels stated above, and excellent scope for rapid progression dependent upon performance. To apply, please forward your CV including a note of your current salary to Ruth Wallace, Room T820, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London WC2E 6TE.

Closing date for applications 20 January 1992.

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1

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MARKETING MANAGER**£32,000 + benefits + car**

In this high profile position you will be operating as a senior member of the sales and marketing policy team. You will be responsible for the strategic development and marketing of Royal Mail's range of priority services to business and to social customers. Key objectives will be the development of strategic marketing and functional plans to maximise profitability and market share.

Ref: 12/302

MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS**£32,000 + benefits + car**

Key positions currently exist for two Market Development Managers to lead the product development and innovation processes within designated market sectors. Working closely with marketing and product managers you will ensure that customer needs and new service opportunities are identified and translated into agreed strategic action plans.

Applicants should ideally possess a sound understanding of the communications market and must be capable of establishing and developing business relationships with key customer groups.

Ref: 12/303

PRODUCT MANAGER - EDIPOST**£23,000 + benefits**

The launch of EDIPOST in 1992 will have a major impact on business communications and will be a key contributor to Royal Mail's new service development programme in the 1990s. EDIPOST will dramatically increase the effective use of companies' existing EDI system by providing a unique bridge between major organisations and their non-EDI trading partners.

This market focused role calls for experience of the communications industry. And, whilst specific knowledge of the EDI market would be advantageous, you can expect extensive technical support. An entrepreneurial Product Manager, you'll have a successful track record in launching new products into fast growth areas; your brief is to prepare and implement effective strategic, functional and tactical plans, ensuring the full potential of EDIPOST is achieved. Dealing with the senior management of some of the UK's largest organisations, you must possess excellent communication and presentation skills.

Ref: 12/304

Applicants should be educated to degree level, ideally with a marketing or business qualification and a background in marketing or product management. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential for these high profile roles.

All positions offer exceptional scope for both business and personal development as well as an excellent remuneration and benefits package.

To apply, please send a detailed CV to our recruitment consultants, LJ Associates, quoting the relevant reference number, with work/home telephone numbers to 12 Colridge Mews, Porchester Road, London W2 6EL. 071-243 1888.



Royal Mail is an equal opportunities employer.

Performance & Quality Adviser

BR BUSINESS REVIEW GROUP**C. £35 - 50,000**

The BR Business Review Group is being established to review and direct all aspects of the Railway and its operating businesses. Comprising the Chief Executive and Board Members, the Group reviews performance, budgets, plans and investment proposals and provides the focus for assessing priorities and the best use of resources.

The Group is advised and supported by the Director of Business Review, leading a strategic, multi-disciplinary team in which the appointment of a Performance and Quality Adviser is crucial.

Emphasis will be on the technical, service quality, operational and safety dimensions of business performance. You will direct the analysis, interpretation and assessment of all non-financial aspects of the performance of all BR's operating businesses.

This will call for the identification of improved performance measures in consultation with the businesses, leading to new methods of analysis, interpretation and presentation. The brief also encompasses the provision of advice on the wider implications of current and forecast performance and the identification of risks affecting promised improvements and project benefits.

Strong analytical skills and a relevant record of success at a senior level in a major organisation are essential. A higher degree, substantial operational experience and an engineering background are desirable.

This is a key role and a formidable challenge at Group HQ. Apart from exceptional professional competence, you will need to demonstrate the qualities required to win the confidence of the Board and Senior Management throughout the Railway.

Salary will be negotiable in excess of £35,000 and the package includes a lease car, free rail travel and significant benefits.

Please send a full CV, in confidence, to Andrew Jukes, Director of Business Review, British Railways Board, Euston House, 24 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1DZ.

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Alternatively write to Janet Stillman, The Prudential Assurance Company Limited,
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You will identify, create and evaluate new business opportunities in your Region, implement the transactions necessary for their realisation and, thereafter, be fully responsible for the profitable running and performance of any business secured or acquired. The main areas of activity are likely to be in gas transmission, distribution and related businesses and in any other related project or consulting work.

You will also be in charge of all personnel working on your Region's activities whether based in the UK or overseas. The dimensions of the role and the impact on the company's direction and success are therefore considerable.

You are an experienced manager, entrepreneurial and profit conscious with a keen eye for a business opportunity and not afraid of the innovative or unusual. Additionally, you are highly accomplished in the effective running of businesses and projects and have a practical, objective oriented approach.

With a good honours degree, you have extensive international experience and have spent time in a senior post abroad, particularly South East Asia or the USA, and you have a sound knowledge of the energy industries. Ideally, you have an aptitude in a relevant foreign language.

Reporting to the Director of Operations, you will initially be based in London although in the case of the Asia and USA/S. America posts it is expected that you will transfer to your Regional base in South East Asia or the USA in a short period of time.

The packages will be attractive and comprehensive and will include full expatriate benefits, where applicable.

In complete confidence, please telephone or write with CV, stating which position(s) is of interest, to: John Black, Managing Director, Simpson Crowden Consultants Limited, 97/99 Park Street, London W1Y 3HA. Telephone: 071-629 5909.

**"Maximising potential through
equal opportunities"**

British Gas

National Sales Training Manager

Pharmaceuticals Division

This newly created position represents the commitment we place upon the complete training arena and provides a significant career challenge within the dynamic Pharmaceutical industry.

Reporting to the Business Manager you will be responsible for the overall development of the training plan for the Division's field based staff and will contribute ideas and resource to address the training and development needs of our management team.

You will be assisted in the implementation of the approved plan by a team of field based training executives. This position demands a high level of interpersonal and analytical skills together with the versatility to manage this multi-faceted role which involves strategic planning, assessing and evaluating corporate and individual needs and, where appropriate, introducing novel training methods. You will play an active part in the organisation of courses at all levels, including management skills training. A strong interest in the personal development of individuals by facilitating the learning process is essential, not only to maximise their contribution to the business but equally important, to realise their own potential.

Qualified to degree level, you are likely to have a professional background, most recently in a training function within industry or consultancy. You must also possess previous line management and proven sales experience in the Pharmaceutical industry. A lively, outgoing personality and outstanding communication skills are prerequisites.

In return, we offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

Please apply with full career details to the Personnel Department, Wyeth Laboratories, Huntercombe Lane South, Taplow, Nr. Maidenhead, Berks SL6 0PH. Telephone (0628) 604377 ext. 4341.

Wyeth

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071-481 4481

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This role provides an excellent opportunity for either an experienced general manager who is looking to consolidate their career or for someone who is seeking their first step into a general management position in a fast moving, profitable organisation.

To apply, write including full cv and salary details and quoting Ref P430 to Cheryl Thomas, Consultant,

Austin Knight Consulting Limited,
Ship Canal House, 98 King Street,
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If you are
not a graduate,
it would not be
worth looking.

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This will take you right through the project cycle from planning and presenting strategic proposals and tactics, briefing support agencies and implementing initiatives, to evaluating campaign effectiveness and competitor activity.

To succeed in the role, you will be a graduate with at least five years' experience in a structured blue-chip marketing environment, almost certainly automotive related. Whilst this may be your first management role your career so far will undoubtedly demonstrate management potential. We shall also be looking for a broad range of practical marketing skills supported by the ability to plan effectively, and assimilate a variety of data and information.

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Customer
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3 Year contracts for IT Managers

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c.£40K + Car + Bonus

You will have key responsibility for the full systems delivery cycle including development, conversion and implementation. In this wide ranging role, you will direct the preparation of comprehensive work plans, budgets and time scales. The management of external contracts for software products and services and the implementation of both internal quality control and external quality assurance reports are major delivery targets.

To direct, enable and motivate multiple project teams covering a wide range of business and technical disciplines, you will need well developed man management and delegation skills. You will also need more than 10 years' IT experience, 5 of which should have included significant responsibility for large project management. A proven track record in the implementation of IBM compatible Mainframe bespoke and package software from multiple suppliers in an integrated systems environment is also important.

Perhaps most important of all is that you are a real achiever who brings an open minded and pragmatic approach to the delivery of creative IT business solutions.

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c.£36K

This is a critical role in facilitating the effective and efficient running of the project. A thorough and disciplined planner, you will have proven experience of planning large complex system delivery projects and be able to put in place all procedures for quality assurance and change management. As well as providing guidance in the use of structured methodologies and automated design tools, you will need to be capable of identifying and resolving interface issues between project teams without recourse to project management.

You should have at least 5 years' experience of leading major successful application developments together with key skills in planning and quality management applied to extensive Mainframe multi-disciplinary projects in an IBM compatible environment. Experience of working with and managing third party organisations and in-depth knowledge of project management tools are also important.

The salary and benefits package for both these roles reflect the importance with which they are regarded.

To apply, please write with full c.v. to Sue Adams, Personnel Division, London Electricity plc, Temple House, 51-57 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NQ.

Closing date: 20 January 1992.

Committed To Equal Opportunities

LONDON
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Head of Management

This is a new appointment of a general manager to live on site and head the household, gardening, maintenance and agricultural staff at a substantial private House and Estate in the Southern Home Counties.

The successful candidate will be a person who can act firmly and fairly in an independent setting yet also establish and maintain an effective reporting relationship to the Owner's representatives based in London.

It is very likely that the person appointed will not be younger than forty; will certainly have held profit-responsible control; and will have a disciplined background and first class managerial skills.

An early appointment is intended. Applications with a full CV to: Dr. P. T. Brown at 26 Montagu Mews West, London W1H 1TF within two weeks of this advertisement.

DIRECTOR
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WITH THE REGION'S LEADING
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The opportunity has arisen to lead a well-structured and developed division handling blue-chip clients and with an impressive new business track record.

The position, which is a designated board appointment, requires candidates to have considerable experience in the recruitment and consultancy field, and to be capable of strong leadership and motivation. The agency places high value on entrepreneurial skills, creativity, business management and commitment, and the successful individual will be offered a remuneration package which reflects this senior management appointment.

Please apply in confidence with current c.v. to:
The Chief Executive, McCann-Erickson Central Limited,
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London area

Our client is a major UK corporation with an exciting future in a rapidly expanding market. They have an established commitment to research and development which is stimulating significant investment in developing new added-value products and services.

The opportunity for change and far-reaching diversification has led to the creation of the key new role of Commercial Development Manager. Essentially, you will be responsible for evaluating the financial and market potential of ideas emerging from research and nurturing them until they become a commercially successful reality. Leading a small, high calibre team and with full budgetary responsibility, you will hold a highly influential role in the increasingly rapid development of a dynamic organisation.

The need is for a highly analytical individual with a blend of technical appreciation, business acumen and strategic vision. A graduate, possibly with an MBA qualification, you will be a persuasive communicator with excellent interpersonal and influencing skills. Probably aged around 28 to 35, you will already have an impressive track record and the ambition to achieve substantially more.

Initial salary will be between £30,000 and £35,000 plus significant performance-related bonus, company car and comprehensive benefits including relocation where appropriate. Prospects for further personal development within our client's organisation are first-class due to the high visibility of this role.

This role is vital to our client's objectives and must be filled quickly. In the first instance, please write including full C.V. to Steve Gardner, Stafford Long & Partners Recruitment Ltd., 12-14 Whitfield Street, London W1P 5RD.

Tel: 071-255 3200, Fax: 071-436 9306.

Please quote reference 5455.

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SENIOR MANAGERS - FOOD INDUSTRY

South East

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This new post is viewed within the organisation as one of the most significant developments for the business and will cover all aspects of project and maintenance engineering across all the multi-site manufacturing units.

As a Senior Manager of the business in your extremely wide ranging brief - from boiler house and other utilities to highly complex 'one-off' projects - the spend is £10 + mill per annum and you will act as the catalyst and influencer to further develop operations in this prestigious multinational.

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You will have total control of a major business unit, manufacturing a portfolio of high profile branded human foods, this senior operations role with the "management of change" a key factor, is a new position for the main UK manufacturing site.

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Able to demonstrate a progressive track record from a similar industry, FMCG, Pharmaceuticals etc. where GMP and the maximisation of complex bespoke production plant is second nature, you will also be able to view the future with an inventive but highly pragmatic approach for this is no ivory tower - It is a highly competitive, pan-European manufacturing business.

A successful education - of degree calibre - will be complemented by the above experience and at least 5 years senior manufacturing management. Ref. no. 134.

For both opportunities the salary will be negotiable and commensurate with the seniority of the positions and the calibre of candidates.

A full and comprehensive benefits package, relocation assistance where necessary and a company car will make up the excellent package. Our client is committed to management development and can demonstrate impressive career progression and to pursue your interest further simply telephone, Jonathan Strachan on 051-707 0100 quoting the reference number or send your complete career details to him at PROSPECTS, 17 Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BQ.

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(Menswear & Womenswear)

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These two senior appointments have been created by internal promotion within the group and have therefore already been recognised as development roles, offering real opportunity for "fast track" retailers. As such, you could reasonably expect to be a likely

candidate for rapid advancement within about twelve to eighteen months.

Within their commercial structure, merchandising has evolved into a highly sophisticated logistical function that, together with buying, exercises considerable authority in terms of planning and decision making at the most senior levels within the organisation.

Key elements of the role include stock management, forward range and sale planning and price structuring - all of which are heavily supported by an impressive systems capability.

Overall, these requirements point to you having had at least five years' experience of merchandising in a high volume fashion or similar environment. Whilst not essential, some buying and/or retail management experience would obviously add considerable weight to your candidacy. However, clear evidence of having effectively managed your own team and skills in handling working relationships generally will certainly be viewed as essential for this position.

As a first step, you may wish to discuss these roles in relation to your own background by calling Ron Irving today between 11am and 3pm on 081-995 7100. Alternatively, you may choose to forward your CV directly to him at the address detailed below.

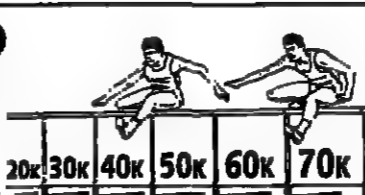
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You will be aged 28-35, have proven marketing experience, show a considerable degree of flair and personality and be prepared to research and resource your own ideas, and immerse yourself in our business. Your two main characteristics will be enthusiasm and commonsense. You must have the personality to influence and stimulate your colleagues and superiors, and the potential to join the Main Board. A University degree is not a pre-requisite.

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You will be based in central London with travel in the UK as necessary and a comprehensive remuneration package is available.

In complete confidence, please ring or write with CV to: John Diack, Managing Director, Simpson Crowden Consultants Limited, 97/99 Park Street, London W1Y 3HA. Tel: 071-629 5909.

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Birmingham based

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Please list on a separate sheet any companies to whom your details should not be forwarded.

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Bedfordshire County Council is looking for an applicant to fill a post within the Emergency Planning Division that has become available due to a retirement. We are looking for a literate and numerate candidate preferably educated to degree level (or equivalent) in a science or technology based subject who has the ability to prepare plans to mitigate the effects of any natural, accidental or wartime emergency.

Good verbal and written skills are essential along with an ability to work with a minimum of supervision.

In view of the outcome of the Home Secretary's recent Review of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning, the main emphasis within the Division is now on major peacetime incident planning.

The successful candidate will be expected to take part in an emergency on-call roster which provides continuous cover.

The post attracts an Essential Car User Allowance and therefore a full valid driving licence is required. Bedfordshire County Council offers a generous relocation package with this post in approved cases.

If you feel that you can make a worthwhile contribution in this post, please write to, or telephone, the County Personnel Adviser, County Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP (Tel: 0254 228 288) for an application form and full job description. Informal enquiries to Mr. A. Laverick, County Emergency Planning Officer - Tel: 0254 228 255.

We welcome particularly applications from women and ethnic minorities due to previous under representation (S.38/ERA, S.48/EDA). Closing date for applications: 27 January 1992

Interviews: 12 February 1992



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and will ideally be able to demonstrate successful fund raising in the voluntary sector together with experience of marketing and promotion in the private sector.

Age is no bar but personal attributes include self motivation, belief in the objectives of CIS, and the ability to discuss confidently with community representatives and others all aspects of the CIS philosophy and programmes.

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Applications in writing, please to

The Executive Director
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This role demands a minimum of 10 years' experience as a professional management consultant.

particularly in relation to the telecommunications industry, plus a formidable record of successful long term relationships with world class corporate clients. In addition to postgraduate qualifications in management and psychology, extensive OD experience within large scale organisations, particularly of finance, telecommunications and retail, is essential.

Practical familiarity with systems, methods plus strong conceptual diagnostic design and delivery skills are also necessary. This post carries a salary in the range of £40-£50k plus generous company benefits.

To apply, send your CV to John Cotnam (Ref: T44), Kingscott Cameron Recruitment Services, 24/25 Cranborne Street, London WC2H 7AA. Fax: 071-497 1328. Closing date for application 23rd January 1992.

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The purpose of this vital position is to enable the Secretary of Defence to provide independent advice to the Minister. It is a Senior Executive position in the Public Service and requires a top level executive who can gain the trust and confidence of key decision makers in Government, the Defence Forces, government departments and in the Ministry. Reporting to the position will be four Managers. The focus of this demanding but stimulating appointment is on:

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At the Court of Justice of the European Communities a team of lawyer-linguists is responsible for producing all the English translations for the European Court Reports and other publications of the Court of Justice and for translating into English a very wide range of other legal texts and documents directly related to the work of the Court.

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For further information and the compulsory application form, write, referring to Official Journal of the EC n° C 1 A of 04.01.1992 (open competition n° CJ 4/91) to:

The Information Office of the Commission of the EC
• 8 Storey's Gate, LONDON SW1 P3
• 4 Cathedral Road, CARDIFF CF1 9SG.

The closing date for applications is 14 February 1992.

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN LUXEMBOURG

EuronAid

is seeking as soon as possible a

Deputy Head Finance Division

with an academic degree in business administration or an equivalent higher education and some years of practical experience in administration, including financial management. The candidate should also have a good knowledge of and a working experience in computerization.

Main duties

- The successful applicant will report directly to the Head of the Finance Division.
- In the beginning the main task will be to participate in the development and introduction of a new computerized management system and to further develop it.
- Later on the main tasks will be in the field of financial administration.

A solid command of English is essential.

EuronAid is the coordinating agency for NGO Food Aid and Emergency Aid Programmes funded by the Commission of the European Communities. Its activities comprise the programming and procurement of the food aid as well as the logistical operations up to the final distribution points. The office of EuronAid is located in Oegsteegst near Leiden in The Netherlands. The Hague is just 15 km away and easy to reach, also by public transport.

EuronAid offers a salary and a range of benefits commensurate with the qualifications and experience.

Interested candidates should send their application, including a detailed curriculum vitae showing the required experience and indicating the salary expectations to the Secretary General EuronAid, P.O. Box 79, NL-2340 AB Oegsteegst, The Netherlands. Applications should be received by EuronAid not later than January 29, 1992.

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The Academic Director will be responsible across the Polytechnic for developing academic provision and enhancing quality and must have the expertise and capacity to provide strategic leadership in these key areas in a period of change. Ref: L449

The Finance and Resources Director will provide expert and effective leadership in financial and resource management, demonstrating sound financial acumen, commercial awareness and entrepreneurial flair, together with the ability to judge effectively between competing demands. Ref: L450

Candidates will need to possess substantial relevant experience and have strong leadership skills to manage and motivate staff in a complex and changing educational environment. They will also need to demonstrate their ability to work effectively and collaboratively as part of a team.

Applications are welcome from candidates who may choose to apply for either or both posts and should, in the first instance, request an application form and full details from the Personnel Department, Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB (telephone 071-735 5096).

Closing date: 7th February 1992.

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We are looking for a communications professional to be Head of our Communications Division, responsible for promoting to a wide audience the work of the National Economic Development Council and its Industrial Sector Groups and Working Parties. The Division is responsible for the production of NEDO's many publications, for the organisation of a wide range of conferences, and for maintaining and developing high profile links with the press and television.

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The Director will preferably have a good knowledge and high academic qualifications in an appropriate discipline. He or she will advise on matters relating to the national heritage, provide leadership to the professional community on matters relating to special collections and promote the scholarly work of the Library. The Director will have sound experience of management at a senior level, and be expected to provide leadership and motivation to a large team of specialist staff.

The Director will be expected to play a full part in the forward planning of The British Library's London Services, and in particular in the future developments of the Special Collections in the new British Library building at St Pancras.

Candidates shortlisted for interview will be invited to meet the Director General.

For further information telephone Mrs Patricia Chapman on 071-323 7553.

For an application form telephone 0937 546341/546330 or write to The British Library, Personnel, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7BQ, UK.

Closing date 7 February 1992.

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Apply in writing for an Application Form by no later than 27th January to:

The Clerk, The Leathersellers' Company,
15 St. Helen's Place, London EC3A 6DQ.

Closing date for receipt of completed forms:
7th February 1992.

CJA

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هنا من العمل

Syed serves warning about his future

When England has not only its most successful men's team since the Fifties but its highest paid, it comes as a surprise that the latest player to break into the squad does not compete full-time, finances studies at Oxford University with a grant and mixes top spin, back spin and float with politics, philosophy and economics.

Matthew Syed, aged 21, was reading about existentialism the afternoon before winning an important final, the Czechoslovak Open, last season, and this week was studying the October revolution between matches for England against China, the world's most successful table tennis nation.

Among the players Syed has beaten are Jean-Philippe Gatin, the world No. 5 from France, and Erik Lindh, the European Top Twelve champion from Sweden, men well on the way to great wealth from a sport which is played in 150 countries and has a world circuit. Syed's victories have been over fine-tuned, motivated and highly-rewarded athletes.

But how long can he keep it up? "I believe my technique is

How does a full-time student remain a part-time success in international table tennis? Richard Eaton reports

good enough for me to do so with limited practice for a year of university life, but that I might struggle in the second or third years," Syed says.

Part of the answer may be forthcoming in the next few days, when this lean, strong-minded player competes in the English Open, sponsored by Cadbury's Chocolate Break, which starts today at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

At the country's premier event, Syed will play in the same team as Chen Xinhua, the former World Cup winner from Yorkshire. Chen, who was an idol and a coach to Syed, is now a friend and doubles partner for the erudite youngster. Syed can empathise with the former Chinese international's situation as his father, as a young man, also had to grapple with the problems of settling in Britain when he came from Karachi as a student.

They have other things in common. Both employ a defensive style that is threatened

by technological developments in bat rubbers which have worked mostly in favour of top spinners. Players like Chen and Syed often have to perform athletically around the barriers at the back to survive a wave of hits, loops and smashes.

A new menace, glue pasted by players between the blade and the rubber, provides extra speed with which to breach opponents' defences. "We have to learn to counter-attack ourselves sometimes," Syed says. "And Chen has helped me a lot with that."

Whether or not it can work against the world's best this week, or next week, in the European League promotion battle against Czechoslovakia in Bratislava, there is one comfort for England. When he has finished wrestling with the lives and writings of Lenin and Sartre, Syed has promised to devote himself full-time to grappling with the problems posed by a spinning ball made of celluloid.



Man of two worlds: Syed combines sport at top level with studies at Oxford

RACING

Jockey Club plan explored

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A RACING working party will meet before the end of the month to discuss the Jockey Club's plan for a British Horseracing Board.

The decision to form the group was made yesterday when Christopher Haines, the chief executive of the Jockey Club, addressed the Horseracing Advisory Council on the power-sharing proposals. Haines had suggested an "implementation group" should be set up but Haines' members pointed out that would be premature as there are several key areas in the Jockey Club plan which may need ironing out.

The working party will comprise two nominees from the Jockey Club, two from the HAC and one each from the Racecourse Owners' Association and the Racecourse Association. Haines' presentation was followed by "a frank but positive exchange of views on a number of important aspects of the proposals," an HAC statement said later. Sir Ned Macready, the

chairman of the HAC, said: "There are certain points which we want to make sure are met in the best possible way. Accountability is one of them."

"We said it would be premature to talk about an implementation group. First of all we have to clarify what we have to implement."

The HAC's study group, which produced a discussion document last year on the need for a British Horseracing Authority, will meet on January 20 to review the Jockey Club proposals in detail.

Sunday idea

THE Jockey Club is contemplating staging a new meeting on Sunday this year, which would, technically be illegal. The proposal, to try to establish Sunday racing, will go before the Jockey Club stewards on Monday.

The stewards will discuss the contents of a paper prepared by the Club's Sunday Racing Committee, chaired by Nigel Clark.

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BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

"There is no set scale of punishment," Bloomfield said. "We attempted to arrive at an appropriate sanction which took into account the nature of the reported offences."

There have been several other recent incidents, including one involving Paul Williams, of Derby County, who was fined £100, warned as to his future conduct and ordered to pay the costs of his hearing after making gestures to supporters at Millwall on October 26. Two more Derby players — Ted McMinn, who was fined £75, warned and ordered to pay costs and Steve Hayward, who was warned and ordered to pay costs — were punished for comments made to spectators at same match at The Den.



CHRIS Waddle and Trevor Steven are likely to be released by Marseilles, the French champions, by the end of the season. The Marseilles president, Bernard Tapie, yesterday announced dramatic plans to re-shape the French champions, saying he would be "building a great team, very different from this season" and admitting Waddle and Steven face an uncertain future.

Papin is already a target for Internazionale of Milan, although he would prefer a move to Naples.

BY CHRIS MOORE

Howe's first priority, after taking charge of this weekend's home game against Queen's Park Rangers, the club that dismissed him last season because it was felt that he was "too old" for the job at 56, will be to appoint a new backroom staff, including a new chief scout.

**BY DAVID HANDS
GUY CORRESPONDENT**

Copsey, the biggest man in the team at 6ft 7in and 17st, is joined by Colin Stephens, his stand-off half at Llanelli, and Stuart Davies, the Swansea No. 8 in a side picked for its ability to perform the basics, particularly in defence. "We have to start somewhere," Alan Davies, the Wales coach, said pragmatically.

Stephens, aged 22, is the sixth stand-off used by Wales since 1990, an exchange rate on a par with England's use of scrum halves in the 1960s and 1970s. "He has the basic attributes . . . and is now in a position to build on those," Davies said. "Although there

WALES TEAM

the injured Phil Davies.
□ Martin Haag has been called into the England B team to play Spain in Madrid on January 19 as a replacement for the concussed Leicester lock, Martin Johnson. Haag, aged 23, from Bath, was born in Chelmsford and raised in Cornwall. He will be making his first appearance in the B XV.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

The athletes are expected to march under the five-ringed Olympic flag instead of the banner of the hammer and sickle. If a team member wins a gold medal, the Olympic hymn — Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" — will be played at the awards ceremony.

Samaranch, who is to meet Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on January 18, said in Madrid yesterday that the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia were expected to receive international recognition in time for them to compete in Barcelona.

By JOHN GOODBODY

The sports clubs which have sought charitable status have found that there are enormous administrative problems involved, and have decided not to continue the quest.

BY KEITH MACKLIN

Yugoslavian sile

Wigan is regarded as essential, since they have been the outstanding British side for four seasons and have become internationally famous. Blackpool Gladiators will play in the third division of

es Repu

□ Alan Tait, the Widnes international full back, was yesterday passed fit to play in the Regal Trophy final against Leeds at Central Park on Saturday. Jonathan Davies will also play after missing the home defeat by Castleford on Sunday because of a virus.

The sports clubs which have sought charitable status have found that there are enormous administrative problems involved, and have decided not to continue the quest.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

As Fifa, the game's governing body, took the rare step of formally denying reports that it plans to move the finals from the United States to Argentina, the Republic said that they are to ask Fifa to rule on Albania's partici-

said. "How can you arrange the group three programme if one of the nations isn't at the meeting? You can't fix

Billy Bingham's future as manager of Northern Ireland meanwhile will be de-

announced yesterday that they will compete in the European championship finals in Sweden in June. Doubts persist, though, about Yugoslavia's

Johansson was reported as saying yesterday: "I find it very difficult to imagine how Yugoslavia could take part in this competition in the light of the recent bloody events in that country, and the death of five EC monitors. Who will represent Yugoslavia? If it's Serbia, then Croatia will protest, and vice-versa." Denmark would be favourites to replace them in Sweden.

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